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SENSATION COMICS FEATURING Wonder Woman™

VOLUME 3

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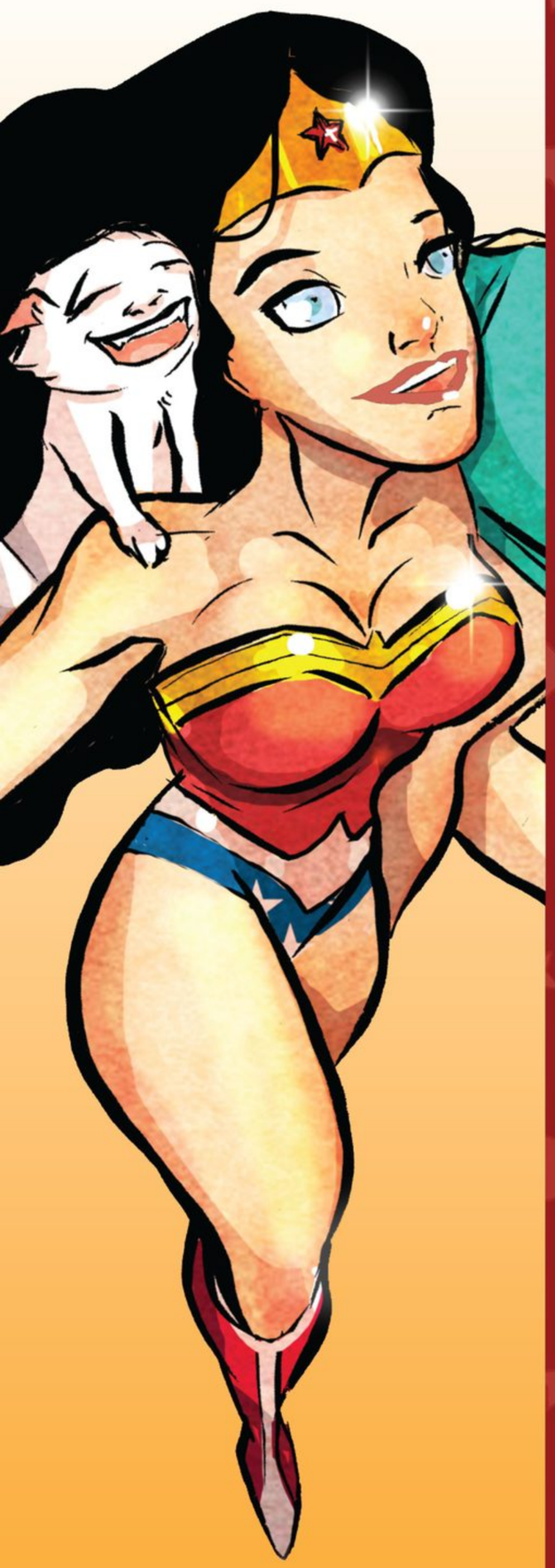

Sensation Comics Featuring Wonder Woman

Volume 3

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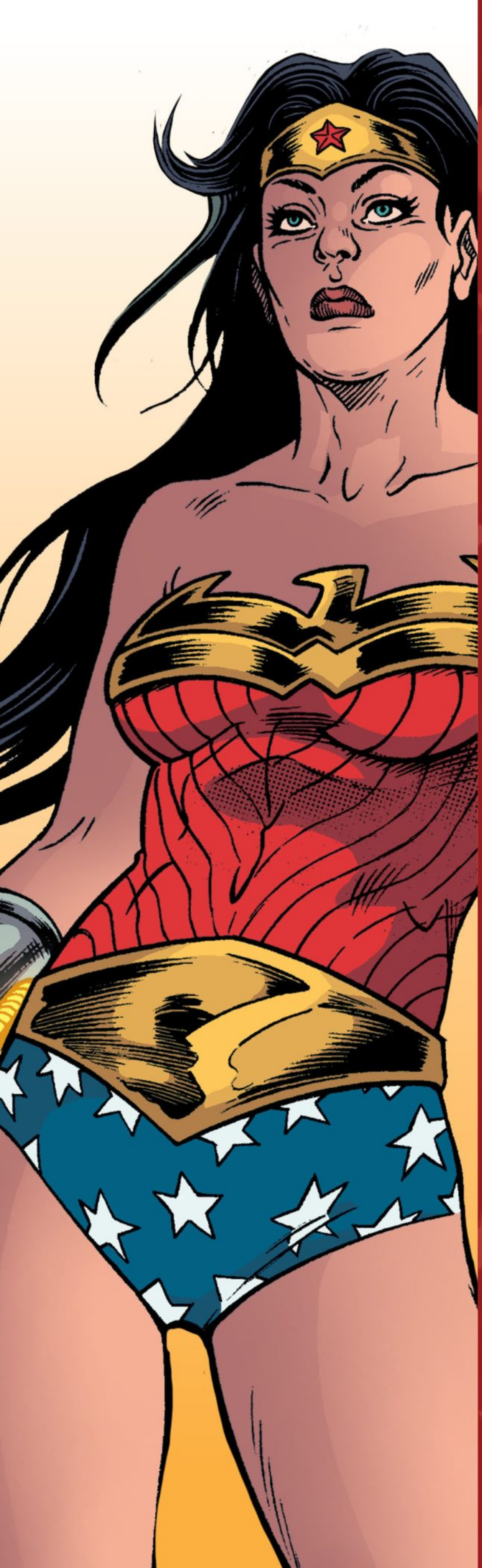

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SENSATION COMICS FEATURING WONDER WOMAN VOLUME 3

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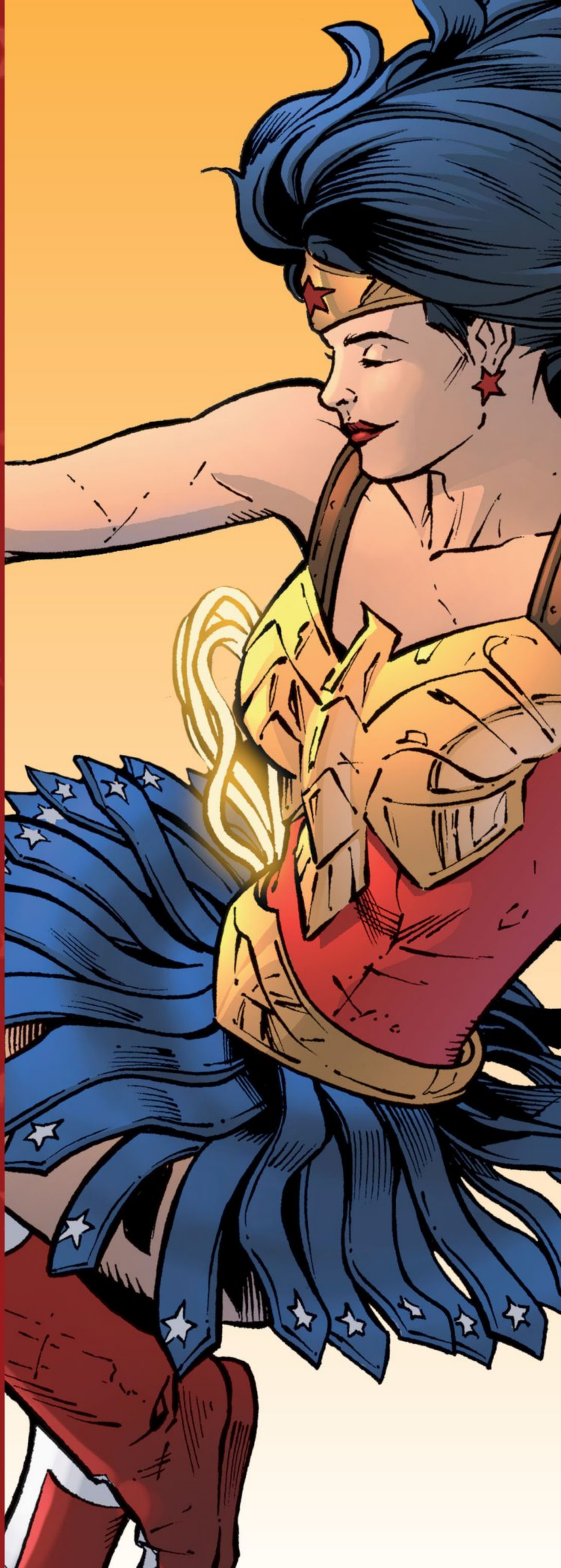


OUR TOP GLOBAL STORY--***WONDER WOMAN*** JOINS THE UNITED NATIONS' EFFORT TO PREVENT A ***CIVIL WAR*** IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC OF ***ITARI.***

ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO, WONDER WOMAN AIDED U.N. FORCES IN OVERTHROWING THE ***PREVIOUS*** ITARI GOVERNMENT, AN OPPRESSIVE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP LED BY ***GENERAL RENAULD ABAKU.***

THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY HAD HIGH HOPES WHEN ITARI HELD ITS FIRST ***FREE ELECTIONS*** IN OVER THREE DECADES.

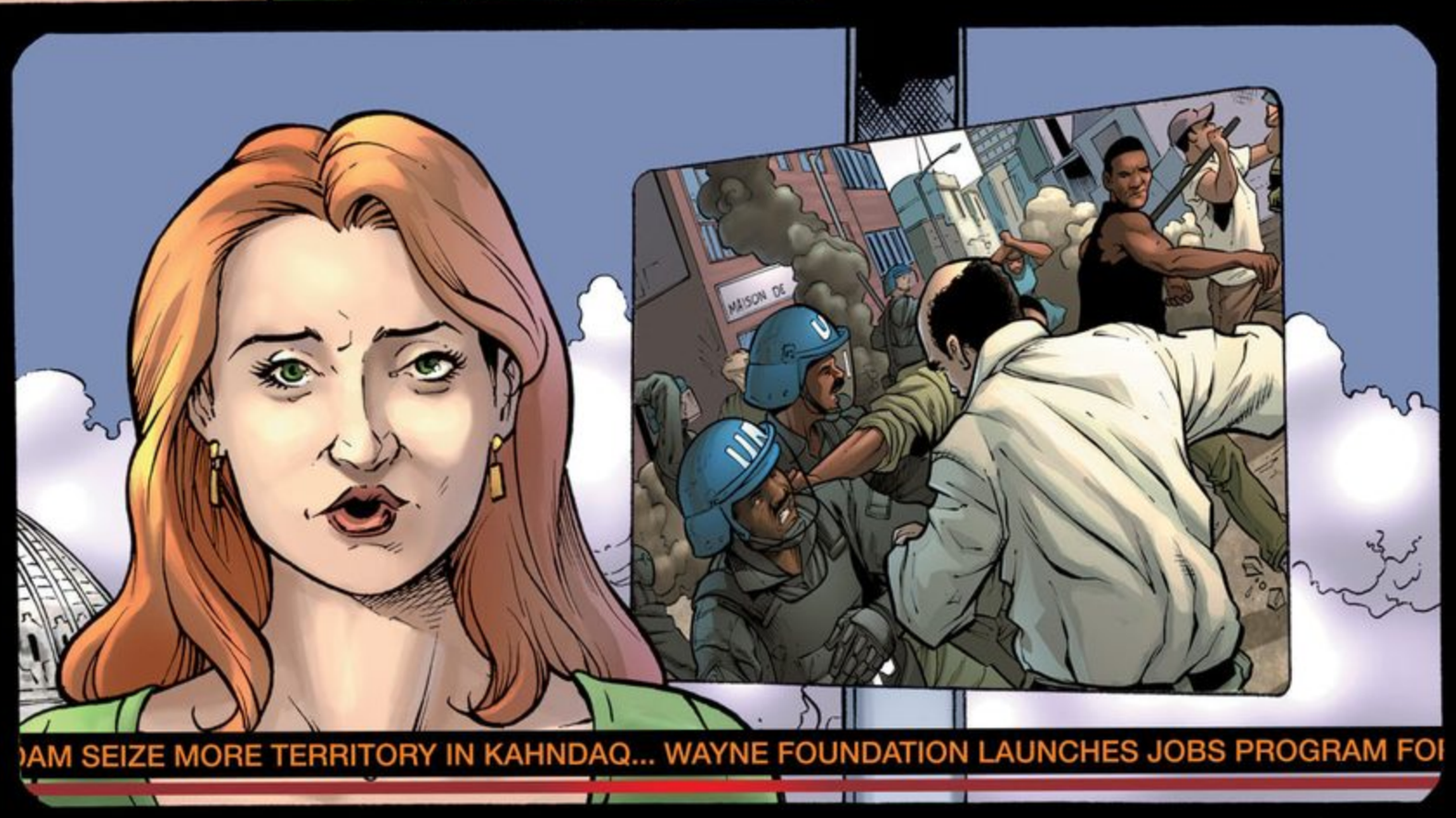
TRAGICALLY, ESCALATING ***ETHNIC TENSIONS*** BETWEEN THE ***UWANGE*** MAJORITY AND THE ***MBINDI*** MINORITY SOON DERAILED THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

OVER THE LAST YEAR, INCREASINGLY VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND REBEL MILITIAS HAVE LEFT ***THOUSANDS DEAD*** AND ***TENS OF THOUSANDS DISPLACED*** WITH SEEMINGLY NO END IN SIGHT.

U.N. PEACEKEEPERS HAVE ***TRIED*** TO STOP THE BLOODSHED...

...BUT IT TOOK THE PRESENCE OF WONDER WOMAN TO BRING ITARI PRESIDENT ***DIKEMBE N'TANSI*** AND MBINDI LIBERATION FRONT LEADER ***JEAN-PIERRE ILONGO*** TO THE TABLE TO DISCUSS A POTENTIAL CEASEFIRE.

BUT CAN ***ANYONE,*** EVEN A ***SUPERHERO,*** BRING ***PEACE*** TO THIS TROUBLED REGION?



FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.

STEVE! YOU ARE A *MOST* WELCOME SIGHT!

GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO, DIANA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE ARRIVING FOR ANOTHER *WEEK.*

THAT'S WHEN THE *BRITS* ROTATE OUT AND US *YANKS* ROTATE IN, BUT I REQUESTED TO COME IN *EARLY* SO I COULD GET THE LAY OF THE LAND...

...*AND* CATCH UP WITH AN OLD FRIEND.

WELL, I'M CERTAINLY PLEASED YOU DID. SPEAKING OF OLD FRIENDS, HOW'S *ETTA?*

SHE'S GOOD. SHE'S STATIONED IN THE *PACIFIC* WHILE I'M HERE, BUT ONCE WE'RE *ALL* BACK IN THE STATES, WE'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU OVER FOR DINNER.

AND SHE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THAT ATTENDANCE IS *MANDATORY.*

SINCE I SEEM TO HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER, I HAPPILY ACCEPT.

I'LL EVEN BRING THE *WINE.* I HAVE A BOTTLE BLESSED BY DIONYSUS HIMSELF THAT I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR SUCH AN OCCASION.

HOPEFULLY WHAT HAPPENS HERE TODAY WILL GIVE US SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE.

YES. HOPEFULLY.

TREVOR

DIANA, WHAT'S WRONG?

I HAVE SEEN THINGS IN THIS PLACE...THINGS THAT HAVE MADE MY HEART GROW HEAVY WITH *DOUBT.*

"THIS MORNING, AN ***UWANGE MOB*** TOOK TO THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL, TORCHING EVERY ***MBINDI-OWNED BUSINESS*** THEY COULD FIND.

"BUT THOSE BUILDINGS WEREN'T JUST BUSINESSES. PEOPLE ***LIVED*** ON THE UPPER FLOORS.

"THE MOB WAS SETTING FIRE TO ***HOMES.*** HOMES FILLED WITH ***CHILDREN.***

"AND SOME OF THE RIOTERS WERE LITTLE MORE THAN CHILDREN THEMSELVES.

"SO *YOUNG*, YET ALREADY FILLED WITH SUCH *HATE*.

"I HELPED DISPERSE THE RIOT, BUT NEWS OF IT HAD ALREADY SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

"WITHIN *HOURS*, A MBINDI MILITIA GROUP HAD TARGETED AN UWANGE VILLAGE IN RETALIATION.

"THE MILITANTS WAITED UNTIL ALL THE ABLE-BODIED UWANGE ADULTS HAD LEFT TO GO WORK IN THE FIELDS.

"THEN, WITH NO ONE THERE TO STOP THEM, THEY *STRUCK*.

"THEY FORCED THE *YOUNG*, THE *OLD* AND THE *INFIRM* OUT OF THEIR HOMES AT GUNPOINT.

"I ARRIVED IN TIME TO PREVENT A *MASSACRE*, THANK THE GODS.

"BUT THAT WAS *TODAY*.

"WHAT HAPPENS *TOMORROW*?

"I FEEL LIKE *SISYPHUS*...

...CURSED TO KEEP PUSHING MY BOULDER UP THE MOUNTAIN, ONLY FOR IT TO KEEP ROLLING BACK DOWN BEFORE I CAN REACH THE SUMMIT.

WELL, I'M NO ***PHILOSOPHER,*** BUT I'VE BEEN A SOLDIER LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT PEACE ISN'T A DESTINATION, IT'S A ***JOURNEY.***

SO MAYBE YOU NEVER WILL REACH THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN. MAYBE THAT'S NOT EVEN ***POSSIBLE.***

BUT IF EACH TIME YOU PUSH YOU GET A LITTLE BIT CLOSER, THEN ***MAYBE*** THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE MY ***MOTHER.***

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.

AS WELL YOU SHOULD. JUST DON'T TELL ***HER*** I SAID THAT.

MY LIPS ARE SEALED.

GLAD TO KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOUR DISCRETION. NOW TELL ME, HAVE THE DELEGATES ALREADY ARRIVED?

THEY HAVE, INDEED. THEY'RE JUST WAITING ON *YOU*, PRINCESS.

THEN I'D BEST MAKE MYSELF...

...PRESENTABLE.

NICE TRICK.

NATIONS PROPERTY SONNEL

A BOON FROM APHRODITE. IT ***DOES*** PROVE USEFUL EVERY NOW AND THEN.

NOW COME ALONG, COLONEL. THAT BOULDER ISN'T GOING TO PUSH ITSELF.

YES, MA'AM.

"LISTEN UP, YOU LOT...

...WE HAVE CREDIBLE INTEL THAT EXTREMIST GROUPS ON ***BOTH SIDES*** WILL BE TARGETING TODAY'S PEACE CONFERENCE.

SO STAY SHARP. AND IF YOU ***SEE*** SOMETHING, ***SAY*** SOMETHING. YOU GET ME?

YES, MUM!

SO LIEUTENANT, YOU THINK THIS PEACE CONFERENCE WILL ACTUALLY ***AMOUNT*** TO ANYTHING?

THAT'S ABOVE MY PAY GRADE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT WE ***SHOULD*** BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY LIKE PROPER SOLDIERS.

AS IT IS, WE'RE JUST GLORIFIED ***SECURITY GUARDS.*** IT'S A BLOODY DISGRACE.

LIEUTENANT HASSAN--

WHAT IS IT, BRAMLEY?

...ONLY I'M NOT SURE *WHAT* I'M SEEING!

YOU SAID TO SAY SOMETHING IF WE SAW SOMETHING...

OH...

...MY...

...GOD!

KRAK

MORTALS!

GIRD YOURSELVES FOR WAR!

THOOM

FOR HE IS UPON YOU!

TAKE HEED, OH SOLDIER, TO THE TRAGIC TALE OF CADMUS, HE WHO SLEW A GREAT DRAGON, THEN SOWED THE DRAGON'S TEETH INTO THE EARTH.

"THE SEEDS BORE FRUIT, AND FROM THE SOIL ROSE A FOISON CROP: THE ***SPARTOI***, RED OF HAND AND BLACK OF PURPOSE.

CLEVER CADMUS BOUND THE SAVAGE WARRIORS TO HIS WILL BY SETTING THEM 'GAINST ONE ANOTHER TILL NAUGHT BUT THE STRONGEST SURVIVED.

WITH SUCH AN ARMY AT HIS COMMAND, CADMUS SOON BECAME KING OF A MIGHTY NATION, BUT HIGH WAS THE PRICE.

"FOR THE GREAT DRAGON WAS BELOVED BY THE ***GOD*** OF WAR, AND THE OLYMPIAN SWORE VENGEANCE 'PON ITS SLAYER.

THUS CADMUS' KINGDOM WAS SOON RIVEN ASUNDER BY RUINOUS DISCORD AND CRUEL STRIFE.

AND THE ONCE MIGHTY WARRIOR KNEW ONLY SORROW TILL THE END OF HIS DAYS.

HOW I LOVE THAT STORY. THOUGH THE BARDS OF OLD DID OMIT ONE CRUCIAL DETAIL.

LIKE ALL SEEDS, THE DRAGON'S TEETH MUST BE ***WATERED*** BEFORE THEY WILL GROW. A BLOOD SACRIFICE.

YET ONLY A WARRIOR'S BLOOD WILL DO.

AND WE ARE BOTH WARRIORS, YOU AND I. SO WILL IT BE YOUR BLOOD THAT STAINS THE GROUND THIS DAY, LIEUTENANT NADIRA HASSAN OF THE BRITISH ARMY...

...OR WILL IT BE ***MINE?***

GO TO HELL.

ONLY IF YOU SEND ME THERE. I NOW TAKE AWAY YOUR CHAINS...

...AND GIVE YOU ***THIS*** SO THAT WE MAY CONSECRATE WITH RIGHTEOUS COMBAT THE FIELD UPON WHICH WE STAND.

A SWORD? I SAW YOU TAKE A BULLET TO THE FACE, AND YOU DIDN'T SO MUCH AS BLINK.

SHUNK

THE WEAPONS OF MEN CANNOT HARM ME, BUT THIS BLADE WAS BLESSED BY MINE OWN HAND.

IT CAN SLAY ANYTHING, EVEN A ***GOD.***

SO I KILL YOU, OR YOU KILL ME? FINE.

EITHER WAY, AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR...

...BLOODY STORIES!

KTANG

SUCH *VIM!* I KNEW YOU WOULD NOT DISAPPOINT!

HA!

HFFF

THUNK

>HUK<

SHUK!

YOU FOUGHT WELL, PEACEKEEPER.

BUT IT IS FINISHED.

I WILL TELL MY UNCLE HADES TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU AMONGST THE HONORED DEAD IN FAIR ELYSIUM.

AND AS YOU LEAVE THIS WORLD FOR THE ONE BELOW...

...KNOW THAT YOUR SACRIFICE WAS NOT IN VAIN.

"GENTLEMEN, WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR PEACE?

BECAUSE PEACE--*TRUE PEACE*--HAS ALWAYS REQUIRED GREAT SACRIFICE.

I AM SORRY, MADAME AMBASSADOR, BUT THE MBINDI HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE, BECAUSE PRESIDENT N'TANSI'S GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY TAKEN EVERYTHING FROM US.

MADAME AMBASSADOR, MISTER ILONGO KNOWS THAT THOSE WERE RIGHTFUL REPARATIONS OWED TO THE UWANGE FOR DECADES OF THEFT AND OPPRESSION BY THE MBINDI ELITE.

AND HOW MUCH OF THOSE "REPARATIONS" FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE POCKETS OF YOU AND YOUR INNER CIRCLE?

I WILL NOT SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO INSULTS FROM A TERRORIST!

AND I WILL I NOT NEGOTIATE WITH A TYRANT! THERE IS NO JUSTICE IN ITARI, AND WITHOUT JUSTICE THERE CAN BE NO PEACE!

JUSTICE? WHAT ABOUT JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF GENERAL ABAKU?

WHAT ABOUT JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF YOUR MILITIAS?!

MY FRIENDS, WE ARE HERE TODAY TO TALK OF THE FUTURE, NOT THE PAST. TO DISCOVER WHAT UNITES THE ITARI PEOPLE, NOT DWELL ON WHAT DIVIDES THEM.

MADAME AMBASSADOR, DELEGATES.

I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE THE INTERRUPTION...

"...BUT WE HAVE A SITUATION."

CHONT CHONT CHONT

COMPANY ...HALT!

CHONT CH--

YOU WERE BORN FOR BATTLE, MY SPARTOI.

SO I SAY TO YOU: REJOICE! FOR YOUR ENEMY LIES BEFORE YOU...

...AND YOUR HOUR HAS COME!

ALALE ALALA!

WHAT'S OUR TACTICAL SITUATION?

THEY HAVE THE COMPOUND SURROUNDED, AND THAT FOG IS SOMEHOW JAMMING OUR COMM SYSTEMS SO THAT WE CAN'T CALL IN REINFORCEMENTS.

THEN WE'RE ON OUR OWN--

ILONGO!

YOU TRAFFIC IN BLACK MAGIC! YOU BROUGHT THIS ***DEVILRY*** UPON US!

STOP BELIEVING YOUR OWN PROPAGANDA! ***YOU'RE*** THE ONLY DEVIL HERE, N'TANSI!

ENOUGH! THE ENEMY OUTSIDE THESE WALLS THREATENS US ALL. WE MUST STAND TOGETHER, OR WE WILL DIE ALONE.

YES, MA'AM. BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'M GOING TO EXTEND AN OLIVE BRANCH TO THE GOD OF WAR.

ARES...

THOOM

...I REQUEST AN AUDIENCE.

I THINK NOT. PRAETORIANS, THIS MORTAL OFFENDS MY EYE.

THEN WE WILL REMOVE HER FROM YOUR SSSIGHT, MY LORD.

DIE IN THE NAME OF ARESSS ENYALIUSSS, AMAZON!

CRACK

I CAME HERE TO PARLEY.

=ACK=

HISSSSSS

BUT DO NOT MISTAKE A DESIRE...

SHUKT

≥HAI!≤ ...TO AVOID VIOLENCE...

≥YAH!≤ ...FOR THE INABILITY...

CLANG

≥HAH!≤ ...TO DEAL IT.

≥UHN...H≤

SHUKT

VERY WELL, DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR AUDIENCE.

THEN I BEG YOU, IN YOUR BLESSED MOTHER HERA'S NAME, TO CEASE THIS MADNESS BEFORE MORE LIVES ARE LOST.

I WILL NOT CEASE UNTIL I HAVE RAZED THIS FORTRESS TO THE GROUND AND PUT ALL WHO DWELL WITHIN IT TO THE SWORD.

WHY? WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS THING?

THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND CRIED OUT FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE OUTSIDERS WHO WOULD IMPOSE PEACE UPON THEM.

AND I AM A GOD WHO ANSWERS THE PRAYERS OF HIS WORSHIPPERS.

YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD NEVER AGAIN INTERFERE IN MORTAL AFFAIRS. HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ALL HONOR?

YOU FORGET YOUR PLACE, DAUGHTER OF HIPPOLYTA.

MY PLACE IS STANDING BETWEEN INNOCENTS AND THOSE WHO WOULD DO THEM HARM.

THEN YOU STAND AGAINST ME, AND SHALL SURELY FALL BEFORE ME.

SO BE IT.

CLANG

YOU WANTED A WAR, ARES?

THEN WAR IS WHAT YOU SHALL HAVE.

UN

FOOLISH GIRL! YOU WOULD *DARE* TO CHALLENGE A GOD?

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN BORN OF OLYMPUS, LORD ARES...

...BUT YOU ARE NO GOD OF MINE.

AND I THINK IT'S *LONG* PAST TIME...

...THAT SOMEONE BROUGHT YOU DOWN TO EARTH!

AAAH!

NEIGHH

YOU WILL BLEED FOR THIS BLASPHEMY, AMAZON.

AND YOUR BLOOD WILL BE A SACRAMENT UNTO ME!

THOK

THOK

UHNF!

YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK.

SHRAK

THEMYSCIRAN STEEL IS NO MATCH FOR OLYMPIAN BLADES.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE QUALITY OF A ***WEAPON*** MATTERS LITTLE...

...COMPARED TO THE QUALITY OF THE ***WARRIOR*** WHO WIELDS IT!

YOU WILL THREATEN THESE PEOPLE NO MORE!

≥AGH!≤

K-TANG

YOU SEEK TO COMMAND ME?

SHING

AAAGH!

TRULY YOUR HUBRIS KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

THOK

AND YOU *WILL* PAY FOR IT WITH YOUR LIFE.

JUST NOT YET.

UHN!

HOLD HER FAST, MY DRAGONBORN.

HISSSSS

HISSSSS

HOLD HER FAST SO THAT SHE MAY BEAR HELPLESS WITNESS TO THE DEATHS OF ALL THOSE WHOM SHE SWORE TO PROTECT.

THEN, ONCE HER FAILURE IS COMPLETE, I WILL PERSONALLY ESCORT HER TO THE BANK OF THE RIVER STYX.

COWARD! STAY AND FIGHT ME!

ARES! AREEEES!

AIRMAN, DO YOU HAVE TARGET LOCK?

YES, SIR. BUT...YOU WANT ME TO FIRE *ON* WONDER WOMAN?

WE NEED TO GET THOSE *THINGS* OFF HER. SHE CAN TAKE THE HIT--THEY CAN'T.

TEN-FOUR, COLONEL. ROCKETS AWAY!

FWOOSH

THOOM

THOOM

THOOM

COME ON, DIANA, DON'T YOU *DARE* PROVE ME WRONG.

YES! THAT'S MY GIRL!

GIVE 'EM HELL, PRINCESS.

"DIKEMBE N'TANSI OF THE UWANGE, JEAN-PIERRE ILONGO OF THE MBINDI: I AM ARES OF OLYMPUS, AND I BID YOU GREETINGS."

MY GOD...

YES, AND THE TWO OF YOU HAVE MADE OF THIS NATION A TEMPLE TO MY GLORY, AND WITH *THAT,* I AM WELL PLEASED.

BUT IN SEEKING PEACE, YOU HAVE *SINNED* AGAINST ME. AND THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH.

CRASH

NO! NO ONE ELSE IS DYING HERE TODAY!

ARROGANT MORTAL WRETCH!

I WILL SEE THAT YOU ROT FOR ALL ETERNITY IN THE DEPTHS OF TARTARUS FOR YOUR DEFIANCE!

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO SO...

...AND I LACK THE POWER TO STOP YOU.

SO I MUST TAKE *YOUR* STRENGTH...

GAAAH!

SHUNK

...AND MAKE IT MY OWN!

HOLA!

W-WELL STRUCK, AMAZON.

I COULD HAVE EASILY PLUNGED THAT SPEAR STRAIGHT THROUGH YOUR BLACK HEART, ARES.

BUT I VOWED THAT NO ONE ELSE WOULD DIE THIS DAY.

NOT EVEN *YOU*.

≥HHHHNN...≤

"BUT IT IS FINISHED. NOW *SWEAR* TO ME THAT YOU WILL TAKE YOUR ARMY AND LEAVE THIS PLACE, NEVER TO RETURN.

"AND KNOW THAT THE GOLDEN LARIAT OF HESTIA *WILL* PREVENT YOU FROM SPEAKING FALSE."

"VERY WELL...I GIVE YOU...MY SOLEMN OATH. BUT YOU ARE A FOOL IF YOU THINK...THIS CHANGES ANYTHING.

"THEY PRAY...FOR *VENGEANCE.*

"I HAVE HEARD THE PRAYERS...OF THE MBINDI...AND THE LIWANGE... AND THEY DO NOT PRAY FOR PEACE.

"YOU MAY HAVE WON...THIS BATTLE...

...BUT THERE CAN BE NO *VICTORY*... OVER WAR ITSELF...

CAW

CAW

HE'S RIGHT. BOTH SIDES HAVE SUFFERED TOO MUCH AT THE HANDS OF THE OTHER.

ANY INJUSTICE COMMITTED YESTERDAY INEVITABLY LEADS TO RETRIBUTION TOMORROW, AND SO THE CYCLE CONTINUES.

NO. THIS BLOODSHED, THIS *MADNESS,* MUST END.

I...I AGREE. BUT HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY *WIN* THIS PEACE?

WE AMAZONS BELIEVE THAT ***WAR*** IS A CONTEST THAT MAY BE ***WON,*** BUT ***PEACE*** IS A GIFT THAT MUST BE ***FREELY GIVEN.***

IF THERE IS TRUTH TO OUR PHILOSOPHY, THEN PEACE WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF ***BOTH*** OF YOU SURRENDER-- TO EACH OTHER.

FOR ALL UNIONS THAT ENDURE-- BE THEY BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE OR TWO PEOPLES--ARE BUILT UPON A FOUNDATION OF MUTUAL SUBMISSION AND INTERDEPENDENCE, A COMMITMENT TO COMPROMISE, AND A WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE.

THAT IS MY COUNSEL. THE PATH WILL BE DIFFICULT. THE RISK, GREAT.

BUT THE ***ALTERNATIVE*** IS CERTAIN DEATH AND DESPAIR FOR FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE.

SO TELL ME TRUE, ARE YOU WILLING TO LET GO THE ***PAST*** IN ORDER TO EMBRACE THE ***FUTURE?***

WILL YOU HAVE PEACE?

"IF YOU WANT TO MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR ENEMY, YOU HAVE TO WORK WITH YOUR ENEMY. THEN HE BECOMES YOUR PARTNER."
--NELSON MANDELA

End

RETURN TO GAIA

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THEMYSCIRA—ISLAND HOME OF THE AMAZONS.

HARVEST DAY.

A HOMECOMING TO HONOR HERITAGE AND COURAGE.

TO FELLOWSHIP AMONGST FAMILY, IN PEACE...

SPAK!

RRUUMMBBBLLE

BA-BOOM!

...AND SOMETIMES IN CHAOS.

NOT THE HOMECOMING I WAS EXPECTING.

DIANA!

IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU, MY DAUGHTER. I WISH UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCE.

WHAT DISTURBS THIS CELEBRATION?

THAT IS SOMETHING I--

MY QUEEN...

...INTRUDER... THE DRYADIC FOREST...

DO YOU SEE IT, MOTHER?

AHEAD... IN THAT CLEARING.

WHAT FOUL MEANS IS THIS?

WHAT WICKEDNESS DESERVES THE SCORN OF MY BLADE?

I'LL ASSUME YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ME.

HYAAAH!
MOTHER, WAIT!
PREPARE TO ENTER DOOM'S DOORWAY!
NOT TODAY, YOUR HIGH--
UUNNGGH!
CHAK!

SUBMIT, IVY! MY GRIP IS SURE AND JUST.

SO IS MINE... PRINCESS.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A LASSO.

YOU KNOW I SPEAK THE TRUTH WHEN I SAY...

...WE BOTH HAVE OUR ROPES TO USE.

BUT ONLY ONE WILL HAVE DEADLY CONSEQUENCES.

YOU TRESPASS ON FORBIDDEN GROUND. WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I DIDN'T COME LOOKING FOR A FIGHT. BUT I WAS MET IN KIND.

AND I DIDN'T COME TO WATCH MY FAMILY PLACED IN DANGER.

RELEASE THEM AND ANSWER MY QUESTION! I WILL NOT ASK AGAIN.

I WAS SENT A WARNING ONLY I COULD HEAR. AN EVIL FESTERS BENEATH THIS SURFACE--ONE THAT THREATENS OUR WORLD. SHE WAS... SCARED... TELLING ME THIS.

WHO SPOKE THIS TO YOU?

THE EARTH MOTHER.

GAIA?

WHAT YOU CALL "EARTH MOTHER," THE AMAZONS KNOW AS GAIA. THE CREATOR AND GIVER OF LIFE TO THE EARTH AND UNIVERSE.

CHILDREN'S STORIES.

NO... BELIEFS. OURS ARE NOT THAT DIFFERENT, YOURS AND MINE.

I ONLY CONVERSE WITH NATURE. WITH THE GREEN. IT HAS NEVER FAILED ME.

SHOOOM

PRRUUMMMBBBLLE

SISTERS! RETURN TO THE PALACE AT ONCE. WE MUST FORTIFY IT.

IF GAIA IS WORRIED, IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING... *HE* IS FREE. AND HE'S COMING.

YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE, DIANA.

WHO IS SHE TALKING ABOUT? WHAT ARE WE DEALING WITH?

THE END-BRINGER. THE FATHER OF ALL MONSTERS.

TYPHON!

FOLLOW! THE ROYAL ARMORY IS JUST AHEAD.

BY HERA, I HOPE IT'S ENOUGH.

IS TYPHON AS BAD AS...*GAIA* BELIEVES?

SHE SHOULD KNOW. SHE BORE MANY CHILDREN. HE WAS HER LAST.

TYPHON FOUGHT ZEUS AT THE BEHEST OF HIS MOTHER, FOR IMPRISONING THE TITANS. AND TORE OUT HIS SINEWS AS A RESULT BEFORE BEING CAST OUT, TO THE DEPTHS BELOW.

HE IS THE CAUSE OF THE STORM WINDS, THE RUMBLE BENEATH OUR FEET. ALL VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS ARE HIS, AND HE HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO ABOMINATIONS.

"FATHER OF ALL MONSTERS." I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PREPARED TO FIGHT A DRAGON.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

WHY ARE YOU NOT DRESSED? THEMYSCIRAN ARMOR IS SOME OF THE FINEST...

...CRAFTED.

MY "MOTHER" ALWAYS DRESSES ME FOR BATTLE.

RRRUUMMBBLE

THE TREMORS ARE INCREASING. TYPHON IS BREAKING FREE OF HIS PRISON. IF WE DO NOT STOP HIS ESCAPE, OUR WORLD WILL END.

DOWN THERE? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

I CAN TETHER SOME VINES FROM THE FOREST FOR US TO CLIMB DOWN--

THAT WOULD ONLY IMPEDE OUR DESCENT. WE ARE IN A HURRY.

MUST I ASK? HOW FAR DOWN IS IT?

INTO THE DEPTHS OF TARTARUS IS A NINE-DAY DROP. WE MUST BE FASTER.

SO SAYETH THE FLYING GODDESS.

DO YOU WISH TO BE CARRIED?

NO, NO... I CAME PREPARED.

TO A GLORIOUS DEATH!

SAYS YOU!

TAKE ARMS, CHILDREN OF THEMYSCIRA! LET NOT THESE HALLOWED HALLS FALL TO TYPHON OR ANY OTHER!

FOR THE QUEEN!

FOR THEMYSCIRA!

GRAAH!

ROARR!

HOLD FAST, SISTERS! THEY WILL NOT BREACH THESE PALACE WALLS WHILE WE STILL DRAW BREATH!

TARTARUS.

FOUR DAYS AFTER THE FALL BEGAN.

NOT THE VACATION DESTINATION I WAS PROMISED.

KEEP FOCUSED! WE HAVE ENTERED THE UNDERWORLD.

TRY NOT TO BREATHE TOO DEEPLY.

HSSSSS
HSSSSS
HSSSSS
HSS
HSS

IT HUMORS ME
THAT ZEUS SENDS SUCH FRAGILITY
TO GREET ME UPON MY RELEASE
COWARD THAT HE IS

COME CLOSER LITTLE ONES
THAT I MIGHT SEE YOU WITH MY OWN EYES
ALL OF THEM
KKRRRAACK

I SHALL ENJOY MELTING YOUR MARROW
AND LIQUIFYING YOUR ESSENCE

TYPHON, FATHER OF MONSTERS, LAST SON OF GAIA...

...MEET YOUR DEFEATER!

SILLY THING

YOU ARE NO DAUGHTER OF ZEUS

NEITHER AM I. BUT EARTH MOTHER SENDS HER REGARDS!

BY MY COMMAND, CRAWL BACK INTO THE PIT WHERE YOU BELONG.

HOLLOW WORDS FOOLISH WITCH

I AM BUT A GOD

AND YOU ARE UNDESERVING OF BREATH

SHOSH

THWAK!

YOUR ELYSIAN FIELDS

ARE BUT A HAZE

THAT I WILL EXTINGUISH

OOSH!

SLSSSHH

KKROOM

=UNGHH= HOW WAS TYPHON DEFEATED LAST TIME?

ZEUS DROPPED A MOUNTAIN ON HIM. AND NO, I AM NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO LIFT AN ENTIRE MOUNTAIN.

MAYBE YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE.

MY CHILDREN AWAIT MY ARRIVAL

THEY SHALL WAIT NO LONGER

IF HE REACHES THE SURFACE, HE'LL SCORCH THE EARTH.

HE'S PULLING AWAY!

I CAN'T GO ANY FASTER!

LET ME TRY.

IT'S TOO HOT FOR MY VINES.

HITCHING A RIDE WON'T SOLVE OUR PROBLEM. WE MUST CUT HIM OFF.

BUT IT DOES GIVE ME AN IDEA.

BE READY. WHEN YOU REACH THE TOP--

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THIS IDEA.

HAVE FAITH!

"GAIA BROUGHT YOU TO THEMYSCIRA.

"I TRUST SHE WILL HELP YOU."

I KNOW YOU HEAR ME.

TEAR THIS MOUNTAIN DOWN!

LET IT BE ENOUGH.

"LET IT BE--"

SLICK

MY QUEEN, THE MOUNTAINS... THEY BELLOWED!

WHAT DOES THAT SOUND SIGNIFY?

THAT MY DAUGHTER AND THE OUTSIDER WERE SUCCESSFUL. AND THAT WAS NOT THE MOUNTAIN YOU HEARD CRY OUT IN PAIN.

NOW ASSEMBLE ME TWO FLANKS. ONE TO PREPARE THE HARVEST...

AND THE OTHER?

"TO WELCOME, WITH HERA'S GRACE, MY WARRIORS FROM UNDER THE MOUNTAIN."

AM I DEAD?

I HOPE NOT, BECAUSE THEN *I* WOULD BE.

I'M CONFUSED. WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU BROUGHT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ON TYPHON. AND ME AS WELL, BUT I TAKE NO OFFENSE. JUST A FEW DAYS DIGGING TO GET OUT.

LOTS OF ROCKS. HEAVY ROCKS. GIANT, MASSIVE, HEAVY ROCKS.

I'LL ASSUME YOU'VE CONTACTED YOUR FRIEND IN GOTHAM TO COME PICK ME UP.

WHY? YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG. THE FOREST INCIDENT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING. EARTH MOTHER CHOSE WISELY TO ENTRUST THE SAFETY OF THIS PLANET WITH YOU.

THIS IS A ***MELIORCHIS CARIBEA.*** AN ORCHID THOUGHT EXTINCT, DATING BACK MILLIONS OF YEARS. YET THIS ONE IS ALIVE AND FLOURISHING.

WHAT YOU HAVE HERE, NOT JUST IN THIS GARDEN BUT ON THIS ISLAND, IS PRECIOUS. A PARADISE WORTH PROTECTING FROM ALL THE EVIL DRAWN TO IT. FROM MANKIND, OR OTHER THINGS JUST AS DANGEROUS.

IF THAT TIME COMES, I KNOW SOMEONE I'M COUNTING ON TO HELP.

NOW COME. THERE'S A HARVEST FESTIVAL WAITING FOR US.

ANY MEN INVITED?

NO.

MY KINDA PARTY.

THE END

A MOMENT OF PEACE

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DIANA.

IT'S NOT PRETTY.

WHERE?

LAST DOOR ON THE RIGHT.

IT'S SOMEHOW WORSE WHEN IT HAPPENS IN YOUR OWN CITY, ISN'T IT?

ANY NEWS?

BETTER THAN EXPECTED. NO CASUALTIES. A FEW HAVE SLIPPED INTO COMAS, BUT THE DOCTORS SOUND POSITIVE FOR THE MOST PART.

TURNS OUT DR. DESTINY WAS FEEDING OFF THEIR DREAMS. TRYING TO GIVE HIMSELF SOME SORT OF POWER BOOST.

ENDED UP JUST ANOTHER JUNKIE. HE'S BACK IN ARKHAM NOW, GOING THROUGH WHAT THEY'RE CALLING DREAM WITHDRAWAL.

MY FATHER SAW A LOT OF DEATH AT HIS JOB. HE WAS A SURGEON.

I KNOW.

SOMETIMES... IT WOULD GET TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

SO HE'D HAVE US ALL PACK UP, AND WE'D HEAD TO THIS MOUNTAIN RETREAT IN THE APPALACHIANS.

JUST GET OUT OF THE CITY FOR A LITTLE BIT. I ONLY REMEMBER GOING ONCE OR TWICE, BUT I'M TOLD IT WAS A REGULAR THING.

HELPED CLEAR HIS HEAD.

I'LL GET YOU THE ADDRESS.

I HAVE A RESERVATION. IT SHOULD BE UNDER WAYNE.

ONE SECOND...

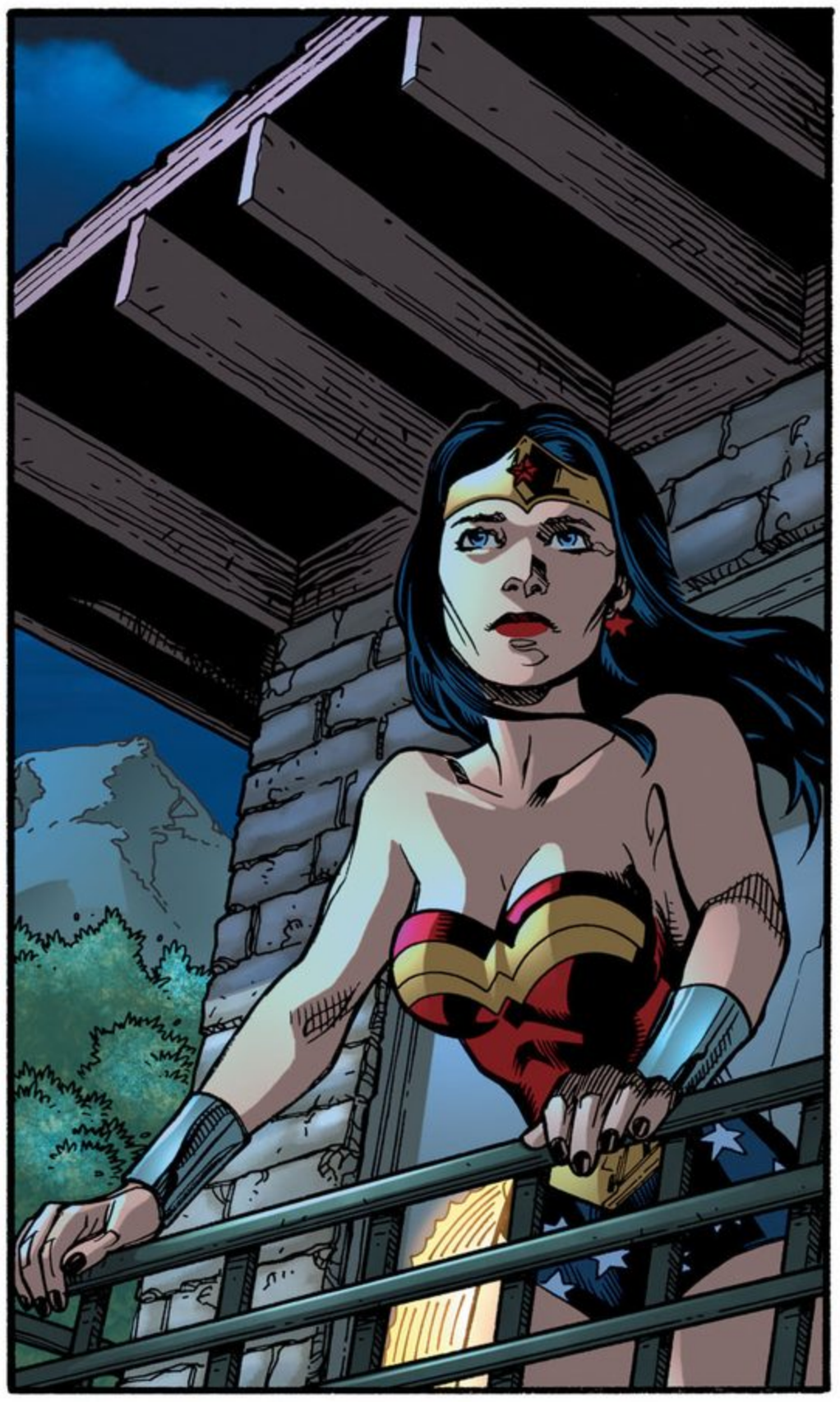
A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION. DID A TORNADO PASS THROUGH OR SOMETHING?

UH-HUH.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

ROOM 407. ELEVATOR TO THE TOP FLOOR. IT'S ON THE RIGHT.

Room 407



I SAW WHAT YOU DID TO THAT TOWN, SOLOMON.

THAT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?

HRRMPH.

YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME.

I WON'T ASK AGAIN.

GGGRRRRRRRR

RRRRAARR!!

RARRRR!!

CLICK

YOU KNOW, THAT'S TERRIBLE FOR YOUR EYES.

HMPH.

HOW WAS YOUR VACATION?

GOOD TO HEAR.

JUST WHAT I NEEDED, ACTUALLY.

I RAN INTO SOLOMON GRUNDY. APPARENTLY, HE'D BEEN TERRORIZING THE LOCAL TOWN FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

HUH.

I HAD NO IDEA.

WELL, I'LL LET YOU GET BACK TO WORK.

THANK YOU, BRUCE.

CLICK

The End

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HEY, WONDER WOMAN!

YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO DUST US, BEEYOO!

THEN KEEP UP!

"THEN KEEP UP!" =BLEAUGH= TO YOU!

HOLD THAT, ALICIA! GOTTA DOCUMENT THAT *FACE!*

=HFF= =HFF= =HFF=

HUH?

WHO--?

NO... ƎHFFƐ...

...ƎHFFƐ ...WAY.

YOU TWO? BUT... WHO?

JUST WAIT!

IT'S--

NO, NO! LET ME CATCH THE MOMENT WHEN--!

HEADING BACK! YOU'LL SEE SOON.

SHE'S DAMN FAST.

THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT. GOTTA POST THIS.

JODE! MELTDOWN IMMINENT!

I WIN.

WELL... YEAH...

...YOU'RE WONDER WOMAN. YOU DO THAT.

THANK YOU, RUNNER!

THE NAME'S JODY.

I TOTALLY ENJOYED OUR IMPROMPTU RACE: IT REMINDS ME OF MARATHONS FROM MY YOUTH.

I RARELY LOST.

NICE SHIRT, BY THE WAY.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE THE BEST, SO I WORKED AS HARD AS I COULD AT EVERY SKILL UNTIL I ***WAS*** THE BEST.

SOME OTHERS MAY HAVE BESTED ME AT INDIVIDUAL ARTS OR SKILLS-- SOME PEOPLE ARE PRODIGIES--

BUT I PROVED MYSELF THE BEST OVERALL.

AFTER ALL, I WON THE ***TIARA*** WHEN I WASN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE COMPETITION.

SO CONTINUE TO TRAIN HARD, TO PUSH YOUR LIMITS BEYOND THEIR CURRENT EVERYDAY BOUNDARIES...

KINDA RUDE! JODY'S STATE CHAMPION!

BUT SHE HASN'T PUNCHED OUT DARKSEID, HAS SHE? GOTTA RESPECT THAT, NANC.

...BECAUSE... IT FEELS GOOD TO BE THE BEST.

HAVE I SAID SOMETHING TO OFFEND YOU?

YOU! YOU'RE A HERO! A GOD!

YOU JUST WHIPPED A HUMAN IN AN UNFAIR RACE AND NOW YOU'RE ALL LECTURING ON HER!

YOU SHOULDN'T ***DO*** THAT--IT'S NOT ***FAIR!***

I DON'T LIKE TO HEAR ***SHOULDN'T.***

I SUGGEST YOU *DON'T* TELL ME WHAT I CAN OR CAN'T DO.

I REALLY HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DO THAT.

AND YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO GET TOO ATTACHED TO THE CONCEPT OF *FAIR.*

FAIR IS AS SUBSTANTIAL AS THIS ROCK.

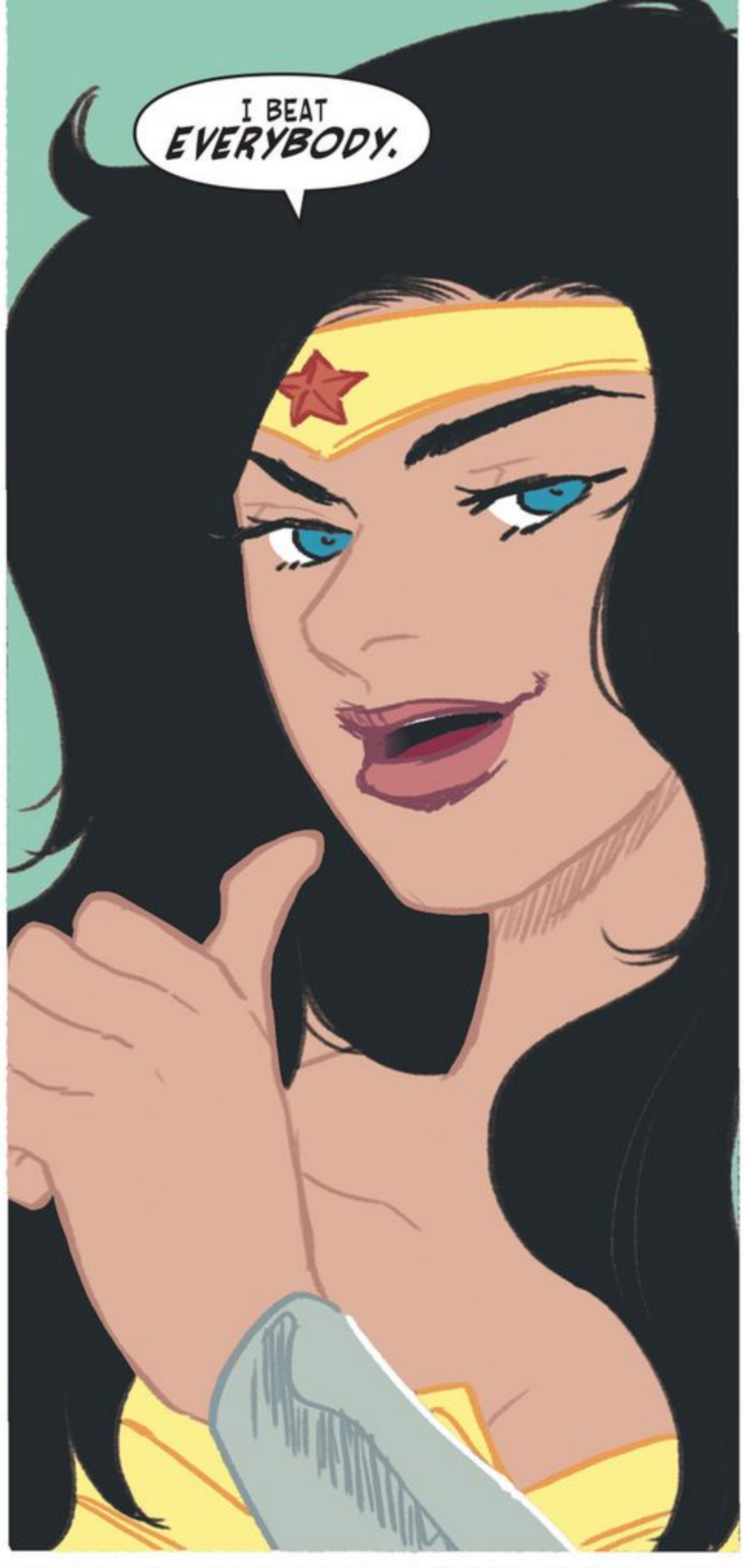
I DON'T GET IT. YOU'RE SAYING IT'S SOLID?

I'M SAYING THERE IS NO *FAIR.*

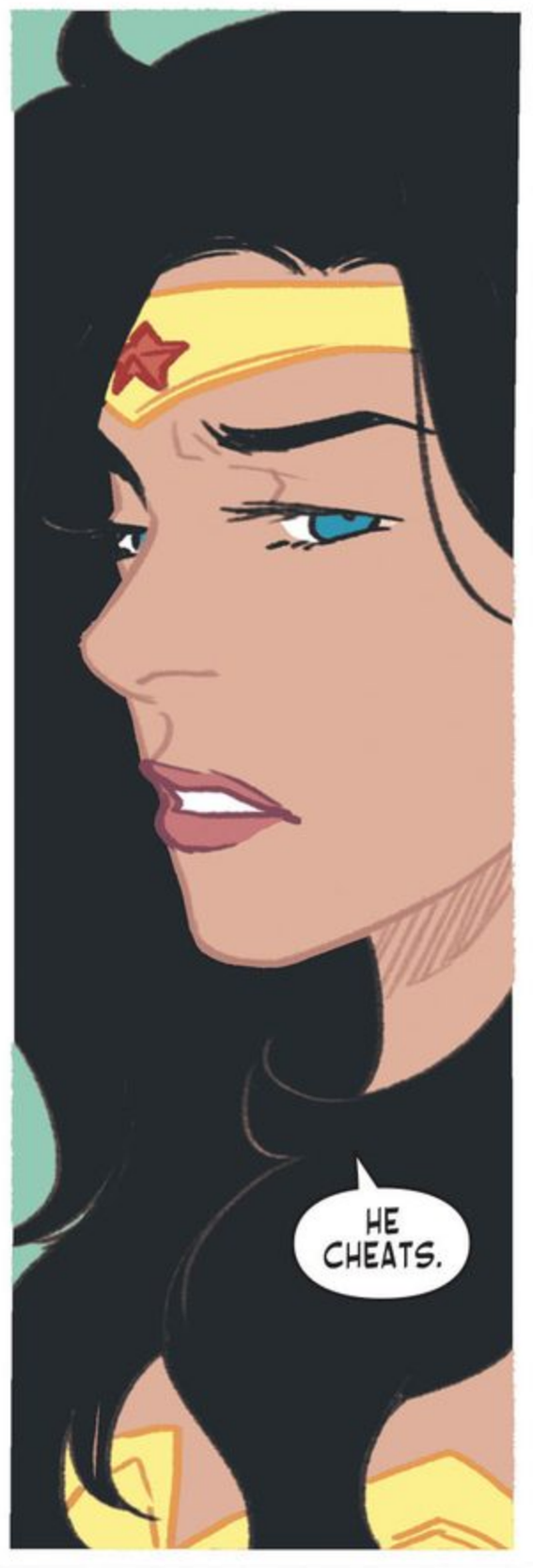
THERE IS ONLY BATTLE AND LOVING AND BREATHING AND KINDNESS AND DEATH--NOTHING ABOUT LIFE IS *FAIR* EXCEPT THAT WE ALL GET TO EXPERIENCE IT.

THERE IS ONLY STRIVING TO BE AMONG THE GREATEST WHO EVER WALKED UPON THE EARTH.

AND YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE BEST BEACH RUNNER EVER.


I BEAT EVERYBODY.

EVERYBODY?
EVEN THE FLASH?


HE CHEATS.

HOW ABOUT SUPERMAN?
HE LETS ME WIN.

WHAT'S HE LIKE? YOU CAN TELL US.
US? YOU AND YOUR THREE HUNDRED TWITTER FOLLOWERS?

I COULD TELL YOU, BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO CHANGE ALL YOUR PASSWORDS AND DELETE YOUR ACCOUNTS.
EEP! AND THAT WOULD BE BAD.
PLEASENOPLEASE

JODY, YOUR POSTURE IS AWKWARD. IF YOU KEEP YOUR HIPS SQUARED, YOU'LL AVOID SPASMS IN YOUR LOWER BACK.

YOU'RE AWESOME.

OKAY, I GET IT. YOU'RE PERFECT IN ALL WAYS.

BUT YOU'RE... YOU'RE *RUDE!*

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO *TRY*--EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU GOT GIFTS FROM ANCIENT GODS! IT'S ON YOUR WIKIPEDIA PAGE!

YOU'RE NOT *NORMAL!*

YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S NOTHING NORMAL ABOUT ME.

YOU SEE THE TRUTH WITHOUT THE AID OF MY LASSO, CLEVER GIRL! I *DO* CARRY GIFTS FROM THE GODS IN MY BLOOD!

BUT NO GIFT MATTERS IF YOU DON'T USE IT WELL.

I DO.

YEAH? WELL, MY MOM SAYS YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT CRIME IN A SWIMSUIT.

IT'S DEMEANING TO WOMEN.

IS IT?

SO YOU'RE, WHAT IS THE PHRASE? SLOB-SHAMING ME?

YOU DISAPPOINT ME. ISN'T SPREADING DISCORD AND HOSTILITY A GREATER SIN THAN ANY CHOICE OF ATTIRE?

WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...

YOU TELL YOUR MOTHER THAT ALL BODIES ARE PRECIOUS. ALL WOMEN SHOULD BE WITHOUT SHAME IN REGARDS TO THEIR GARMENTS.

CLOTHING SHOULD BE A CELEBRATION AND A DELIGHT, NOT A SHIELD, EXCEPT FROM WEATHER.

AND I'D DEFEND PEACE WITHOUT CLOTHING, BUT I FIND THAT NUDITY DISTRACTS FROM MY MESSAGE.

AND JUST WHAT IS YOUR "MESSAGE"?

"I'M AWESOME, AND YOU SUCK"?

I...

...I AM THE *BEST* I *CAN* BE...

...WHICH *YOU* CAN *ALSO* BE.

YOU JUST HAVE TO *CHOOSE* TO TRAIN, TO DECIDE, TO *STRIVE*...

...TO BE THE *BEST.*

BOOM

AAHH!

AIEE!

YAAAAH!

SPLAT

WONDER WOMAN.

WHAM!

SWEESH

SUPERWOMAN.

REALLY?

YOU THINK *YOU'RE* THE BEST?

TRY AGAIN.

TELL ME ANOTHER BEDTIME STORY...

THIS ONE'S ALL DONE!

NO. THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

SUPERWOMAN.

SHOULDN'T YOU BE LOCKED UP?

WITH EVERY SUPERBEING ON THIS PLANET AGAINST ME, I'M SURE IT'S INEVITABLE.

BUT I'M *NOT*, RIGHT NOW.

I'LL HAVE TO FIX THAT.

WE'VE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO PROPERLY DETERMINE WHICH OF US HAS MORE FULLY EMBRACED HER AMAZONIAN TRAINING.

COME. LET THE BATTLE BEGIN.

LOOK AT YOU, "PRINCESS," STRUTTING AROUND AS IF YOU WERE THE BEST AND THE GREATEST!

YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ME...

...WE BOTH KNOW WHO'D WIN THAT BATTLE.

YOU'RE SOFT. *TAMED.*

YOU POOR, DELUDED FOOL. YOU THINK SUPERMAN LETS YOU WIN BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU?

I'M SURE HE JUST WANTS TO WATCH HIS PET PLAY.

FROM WHAT I SEE, YOU'RE SO BUSY KOWTOWING TO HIM THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOU'RE AN AMAZON!

THE SHAME OF YOUR SUBJUGATION MUST MAKE IT *DIFFICULT* TO IMAGINE YOURSELF WORTHY OF ANYTHING BUT SCRAPS OF HIS AFFECTION, YOU POOR GIRL.

YOU DO REALIZE YOU'RE JUST A TEMPORARY JOY?

IS THAT SO? MEANWHILE, *YOU'VE* BEEN SO BUSY SEDUCING ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE THAT I'M SURPRISED YOU HAD TIME TO OBSERVE ANYTHING I DO, LET ALONE MISINTERPRET IT ALL.

YOU HAVE BEEN SCREENED FOR DISEASE, I HOPE.

MEOW! SUPER-CATFIGHT IN PROGRESS!

OOOH. BITCHY.

HIT A NERVE, DID I?

CAN WE STOP? YOU'RE TRYING MY PATIENCE.

WHICH I'M MOSTLY SPENDING TRYING NOT TO PITY YOU.

GOADING ME WON'T CHANGE WHAT COMES NEXT.

YOU CAN LEAVE NOW, IN PEACE, OR LATER...

...IN PIECES.

OH, SO CUTE! STAND, POSE, AND POINT--JUST LIKE A GIRL!

YOU SHOULD ***CHALLENGE*** ME LIKE AN ***AMAZON***--NO WARNINGS, NO EXCUSES!

BUT INSTEAD YOU ***BOW*** TO THE MEN OF YOUR WORLD, AMAZON. YOU LET THEM LIMIT YOU, HOLD YOU BACK.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD SERVE ***ME*** INSTEAD?

NO.

YES!

NO!

DON'T *YOU* WANT TO SERVE ME NOW, CHILD?

YOU ARE THE BEST OF YOUR LITTLE TEAM, AND NOW YOU'RE THE FIRST OF MINE.

JODY? WHAT'RE YOU DOING? YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?

I HAVE TO DO IT.

IT'S THE LASSO. IT CONTROLS MINDS!

IT'S *MY* LASSO! I DO THE CONTROLLING.

YOU'RE *NEXT.*

HAG.

WHATEVER.

THEY ARE *NOT.*

YOUR ACOLYTE, MY HOSTAGE.

WHAT WILL YOU DO *NOW?*

ALICIA! NANC! GET OUT OF HERE! *GO!*

YOU WILL TAKE NO STEP TO COUNTERMAND MY ORDERS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

OW!

YES!

YOU DON'T HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS, DO YOU?

QUIET.

WELL, WONDER WOMAN?

NO! I CAN'T HELP SHIELDING HER, BUT DON'T DO WHAT SHE WANTS!

DON'T D-GLRK!

I SAID QUIET.

NNNGH!

OH, NO, SHE DIDN'T!

SHE'S BAILING ON US?

HA! WONDER WOMAN HAS ABANDONED YOU!

I'M NOT SURPRISED.

SHE'S REALLY ALL SHOW. THE POSING, THE LECTURES...

...YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT. LEAVE THE LASSO ALONE. STAY PUT UNTIL I'M CERTAIN THIS IS OVER.

BUT SHE'S GONE. YOU DON'T NEED SHIELDING.

ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS IMPERTINENT?

I'M PRE-LAW. MEANS I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SQUIRREL AROUND THE LANGUAGE.

SHE'S SCARED. SHE KNOWS I WOULD HAVE BEATEN HER.

UM... NO.

YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOUR IDOL IS MORE CONCERNED WITH HER IMAGE THAN YOUR LIVES.

NO?

SHE'S NOT REALLY OUR IDOL. SHE'S MORE LIKE A CELEBRITY.
WE WERE JUST TRAINING HERE. WE DIDN'T KNOW SHE'D SHOW UP. OR YOU.
SHE'S STILL *MY* IDOL.
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO YOUR FRIENDS.
SO YOU TWO FEEL NO LOYALTY TO HER, NOR EXPECT HER TO OFFER THE SAME TO YOU?
SHE HAD TO TAKE OFF! GETTING BACKUP TO SCRAG YOUR SORRY SUPER-VILLAIN ASS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THREE RUNNERS!
OH, YOU'RE SO ADORABLE. I HOPE MY CHILD IS JUST LIKE YOU.
ONLY A LOT SMARTER.
AND PRETTIER.
SMILE!
IS THAT LASSO REALLY THORNS? CAN I SEE IT?
YES. NO.
NICE TRY.
WONDER WOMAN'S GONE. ALL OF YOU ARE *MINE* NOW.
GET USED TO IT.
UGH!
UH-OH.
UH...

KA-BOOM

I DID NOT ABANDON THEM!

WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED. I NEEDED TO GAIN EXTRA VELOCITY TO--

GO. JUST GO.

SHE MUST BE DEAD! THIS IS PEELING OFF YOU NOW!

THAT WAS AN ASTOUNDING MOMENT, AND I TOTALLY MISSED DOCCING IT.

DOCUMENT LATER. ***LEAVE*** NOW.

I'LL KEEP HER OCCUPIED.

YOU HEARD HER!

RUN!

AND I WILL TIPTOE CAREFULLY BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT THIS TOUCHING ME AGAIN...

THANK YOU!

I'VE *EARNED* THE RIGHT TO PRIDE IN MY NAME!

BUT DON'T CONFUSE ME WITH *YOU*--MY *IMAGE* WILL *NEVER* BE MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN ANYONE'S LIFE!

NEVER!

I LIED.

I THINK SHE'S MY IDOL.

ALWAYS WAS MINE. I HOPE THIS IS *OVER.*

NOT THAT IT HASN'T BEEN THE MOST AMAZING THING EVER!

YEAH TO THAT.

STAY BACK!

MY ATTACK WON'T SLOW HER FOR LONG!

WHOOSH

YOU BITCH!

NO MORE GAMES! I WILL *CRUSH* YOU, WONDER WOMAN!

IT'S NOT OFTEN I GET TO BATTLE A FELLOW AMAZON AWAY FROM THEMYSCIRA, LOIS.

YOU SEEM TO BE AS POWERFUL AS MY SISTERS...

ALTHOUGH I THINK THE AMAZONS OF *MY* WORLD ARE BETTER TRAINED.

SHE'S TOTALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT US.

NOPE, ALICIA, WATCH HER--SHE'S HERDING MISS WITCHYPANTS AWAY FROM US.

GETTING IT! GETTING IT!

TELL US, JODY--WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEING CONTROLLED BY SUPERWOMAN'S LASSO? WOULD YOU HAVE HURT SOMEONE SHIELDING HER?

OH, YEAH. THE COMPULSION'S STRONG, NANC. I DIDN'T LIKE OBEYING HER, BUT I JUST HAD TO.

BUT YOU TOLD *US* TO RUN AWAY?

LOOPHOLE--SHE NEVER SAID NOT TO DO THAT. SHE JUST TOLD ME WHAT I HAD TO DO IN RELATION TO HER AND WONDER WOMAN.

YOU'RE GONNA MAKE AN AWESOME LAWYER.

COULD YOU GO BACK TO THEM? I'M GONNA WANT TO WATCH THIS LATER.

YOU NEARLY HAD ME THERE-- YOUR TACTICS ARE EXCELLENT!

YOU CAN STOP PATRONIZING ME NOW.

YOUR LASSO IS MERELY GOLDEN ROPE, PRINCESS-- MINE IS A WEAPON EVEN WITHOUT ITS ABILITY TO ENTHRALL!

MY LASSO WAS FORGED IN THE FIRES OF HEPHAESTUS AND IS JUST AS STRONG.

ZWIP

SHALL I *SHOW* YOU?

YOU'RE GOING TO TICKLE ME WITH THAT?

BY APHRODITE--!

KEERAAKK

KRAKKT

I SAW YOU HOLD BACK WHEN YOU SAW MY BELLY. YOU'RE AFRAID TO HURT ME. THAT'S ***WONDERFUL.***

THAT FLINCH GIVES ME AN AMAZING ADVANTAGE.

WEAKLING. YOU SHOULD KNOW A PREGNANT WOMAN IS STRONGER THAN EVER.

NOW TELL ME THE *TRUTH*, "PRINCESS." DON'T YOU ENVY ME?

YOU ARE NOT BEARING A CHAMPION.

TRUE. I *AM* ONE.

AS AM I!

I CHOSE THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE TO FATHER MY PROGENY AND I WILL BE THE MOTHER OF WARRIORS!

I FIGHT FOR MY CHILD.

YOU FIGHT *ALONE.*

I NEVER FIGHT ALONE. I'M AN AMAZON.

MY SISTERS CHALLENGED ME, MADE ME STRONGER, HELPED ME BECOME A CHAMPION.

I AM THE RESULT OF THEIR TRAINING AND ENCOURAGEMENT STRENGTHENING MY OWN DEDICATION TO THE COURSE.

ALONE I AM STRONG...

...BUT WE ARE STRONGEST WHEN WE HAVE OUR SISTERS IN OUR HEARTS.

OH, *SWEET.*

YOU HAVE *CHEERLEADERS.*

=UNGH=

BUT YOU--

--YOU TRAINED *ALONE.*

YOU ABANDONED YOUR SISTERS AND TURNED YOUR BACK ON THEIR SUPPORT.

I DIDN'T ABANDON THEM! I *OUTGREW* THEM!

WE WEREN'T WEAK AND SOFT LIKE YOUR NICE-NICE AMAZONS. WE WERE FIERCE AND PROUD AND TRIUMPHANT!

AAHH!

AND I PROVED I WAS THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL BEFORE MOVING ON!

AND NOW HERE YOU ARE, MY PRISONER.

BOUND BY YOUR OWN LASSO, YOU *HAVE* TO TELL THE TRUTH NOW. SO... WHO'S THE BEST OF US?

SAY IT'S ME!

AGREE WITH ME!

NO.

I AM.

BUT...

THAT WASN'T THE ANSWER YOU WANTED?

YOU TOLD ME TO TELL THE TRUTH!

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

BUT I'LL PROVE YOU *WRONG!*

YOU CAN TRY.

HAHAHA

YOUR LASSO *DOESN'T* WORK ON ME, AND MINE *CAN'T* WORK ON ME!

TRUE, ITS TRUTH-DIVINING PROPERTIES DON'T WORK ON YOU.

BUT I CAN STILL CHOKE THE LIFE OUT OF YOU WITH IT!

=KAKKK=

LIKE ME, YOU CAN GO WITHOUT BREATH FOR A VERY LONG TIME...

...BUT NOT FOREVER.

YOU'RE AN AMAZON...

...NOT A GOD.

JUST SLEEP, LITTLE ONE. NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU FROM GIVING IN.

OH, NO! SHE'S GOTTA STOP HER SOMEHOW, BUT...

SHE'S ACTUALLY *KILLING* HER, RIGHT? I *AM* SEEING THIS?

IF SHE IS, I'VE GOT IT DOCCED!

Y-Y--

JUST ACCEPT.

SNAPT

=UNGH=

SURRENDER.

=UNNHH=

IF ONLY YOU COULD HAVE CHOSEN A BETTER PATH, LOIS.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN HONOR TO FIGHT BY YOUR SIDE.

WHUMP

BUT YOU CHOOSE WAR. I *DON'T.*

ARE YOU THREE UNHARMED?

UH... YEAH WOW.

WONDER WOMAN, CAN I GET A SHOT OF YOU AND JODY?

AN' ME AND ALICIA, TOO.

SAY "BESTEST HERO IN THE UNIVERSE" IS *THIS* GIRL!

TIME FOR ME TO DELIVER THIS WOMAN BACK TO HER CELL.

SO, NEXT WEDNESDAY? REMATCH?

WITHOUT THE INTERRUPTION?

AFTER ALL, YOU DESERVE TO BE SCHOOLED BY A CHAMPION!

CAN'T WAIT TO BLOG THIS. I AM SO A FAN NOW.

YEAH, ME TOO.

ALWAYS WAS. ALWAYS WILL BE. SHE IS THE BEST!

THE END

NINE DAYS

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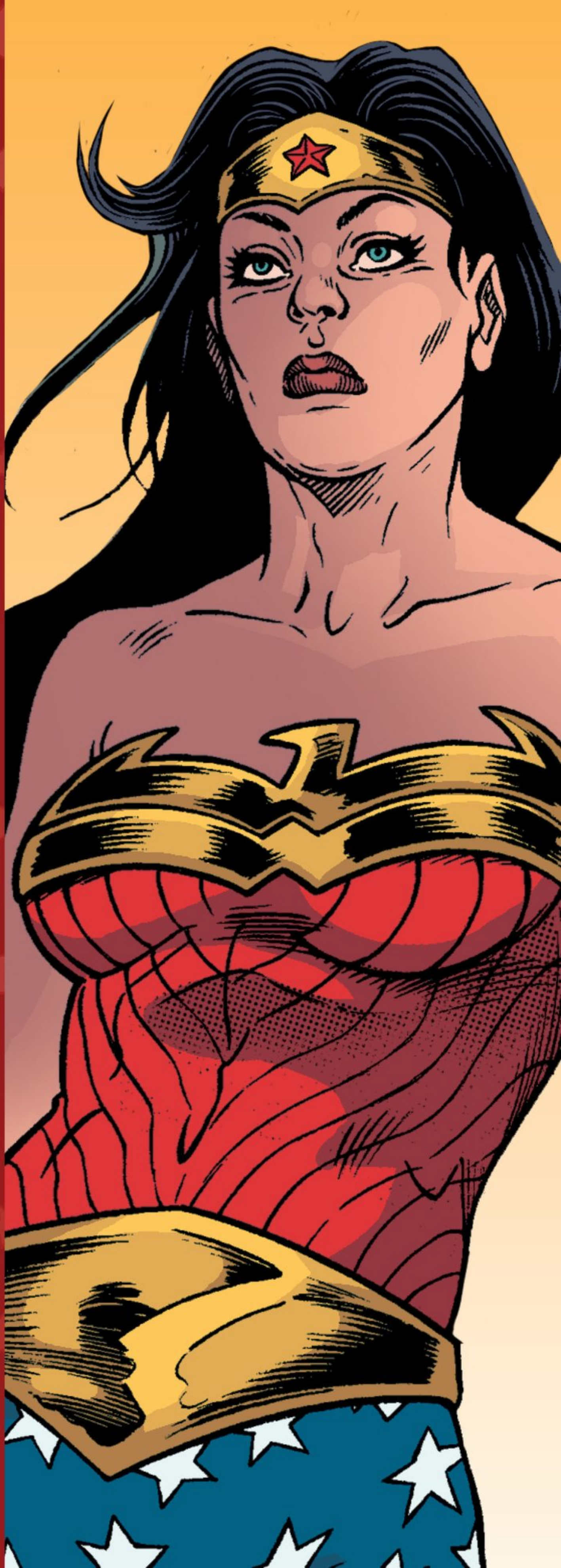
DERON BENNETT
LETTERER



ONE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS: NEW YORK.

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO WALK FROM HERE, MA'AM? EVERYONE'S A BIT CRAZY THIS EVENING.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE FINE.

FRESH AIR AND EXERCISE. IT'S A LOVELY NIGHT.

"YOU HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH GODS THAN YOU IMAGINE, MORTALS.

"HERE IS DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA--DEMI-GOD, AMBASSADOR, THE MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN MY WORLD AND YOURS.

"SHE HAS VOWED TO BRING PEACE TO THE PATRIARCHS' WORLD. BUT AS THE MAN OBSERVED--

EVERYONE IS A LITTLE CRAZY THIS EVENING.

"MORTALS ARE AT THEIR MOST VULNERABLE AT NIGHT.

"AFRAID OF THE DARK. OR MORE PRONE TO FIGHT, AND STEAL, AND MISBEHAVE.

"BUT I AM NIGHT, AND THIS IS NOT MY DOING.

"HUMANS, LIKE GODS, HAVE FREE WILL. CHOICES."

BREAK IT UP!

"AND. NONE OF US KNOW WHERE OUR CHOICES WILL LEAD. NOT. EVEN GODS."

GO HOME. SLEEP IT OFF.

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

I'D LISTEN TO THE LADY IF YOU WERE YOU. THAT'S WONDER WOMAN.

"I AM NYX, MOTHER OF MANY GODS. I BORE LIGHT AND DAY, DEATH AND SLEEP, LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP, FURIES AND FATES, NEMESIS AND MODERATION, DREAMS...AND STRIFE.*

ALWAYS THE DIPLOMAT. HOW ADMIRABLE.

STRIFE. DID *YOU* START THAT?

DIDN'T NEED TO. HUMANS TEAR EACH OTHER APART PRETTY WELL WITHOUT MY HELP.

"I WAS BORN OF MOTHER KHAOS, THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ALL MATTER. I AM THE DARK MATERIAL THAT HOLDS THIS UNIVERSE TOGETHER.

"BUT IF YOU THINK I HAVE A GRAND PLAN..."

*HESIOD'S VERSION OF THE MYTH.

OH LOOK. PEACE-LOVING TYPES. YOUR KINDRED SPIRITS.

HUMANS YOU CAN'T WARP TO YOUR WILL? YOU'RE SLIPPING.

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A MORTAL...

I WOULDN'T WASTE TIME PRAYING, BUDDY.

TAKE IT FROM ME. GODS DON'T LISTEN.

"STRIFE IS RIGHT. HOW CAN WE HEED YOU? MORTALS ALL WANT DIFFERENT THINGS FROM US. CONFLICTING THINGS.

"YOU OVERESTIMATE US. WE ARE NEITHER OMNISCIENT NOR OMNIPOTENT.

"IF WE WERE, THEN ZEUS COULD NEVER DECEIVE HERA.

"AND HE WOULD NOT NEED TO PUNISH MEN IF HE COULD DICTATE THEIR EVERY MOVE.

"BUT, LIKE YOU, WE CAN ACT. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IN THE SCHEME OF THE UNIVERSE, BUT WE MUST ACT, OR WE CEASE TO BE.

"SO I SHALL HEED THAT MORTAL'S PRAYER. I SHALL TRY TO STOP STRIFE'S TROUBLE-MAKING WAYS.

"THE OUTCOME, THOUGH-- WHO KNOWS? IT DEPENDS ON SO MUCH THE GODS CANNOT CONTROL."

YOU DRESS LIKE A ***JUNKIE.*** YOU REALLY SHOULD TRY HARDER.

DAD? DAD, IS THIS SOME PUNISHMENT? MOM? OKAY, JOKE OVER. ***STOP THIS.***

I'M ERIS. YOUR ***BETTER*** SIDE.

THE MOTIVATION TO ***BE*** BETTER. ***DO*** BETTER.

YOU CAN'T IGNORE ME. YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY.

I'M ***YOU.***

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON D.C.

"YOU SEE, MORTALS, THERE ARE INFINITE VARIABLES THAT NONE OF US CAN CONTROL. BUT DIANA STILL TRIES..."

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING. I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D START TALKS.

YOURS WAS THE ONLY NAME THEY BOTH AGREED TO.

THEY BOTH NEED TRADE SANCTIONS LIFTED.

BUT WHY ASK FOR ME?

WELL, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOROTA IS REASSURED THAT THEMYSCIRA ISN'T A PART OF THE CAPITALIST WEST, AND SAN EGNATIO HAS NOTED YOUR U.N. VOTING RECORD AGAINST MILITARY INTERVENTION.

SMALL AND HARMLESS, THEN.

I PREFER ***NEUTRAL.*** NO AGENDA OR ALLEGIANCES.

SO THEY'RE WILLING TO CEASE HOSTILITIES AND OPEN THEIR BORDERS TO EACH OTHER, AND THEIR NEIGHBORS GET ACCESS TO THE CANAL AND THE PORT.

AND SO DOES THE WEST, OF COURSE.

THAT'S NOT MY REMIT.

NO, BUT ALL NATIONS BENEFIT FROM TRADE.

NO WESTERN COMPANY'S BEEN ALLOWED IN TO SURVEY THOSE PLACES FOR MINERALS AND GAS.

MY TASK IS TO GET THEM TALKING TO EACH OTHER FIRST.

THEN THEY CAN DECIDE IF THEY WANT TO DO BUSINESS WITH ***YOU.***

HOW LONG AM I GOING TO BE STUCK WITH YOU?

YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

OKAY, THIS IS PROBABLY DAD KEEPING ME DISTRACTED WHILE HE JUMPS ON SOME MILKMAID OR SOMETHING. IT'LL PASS.

MORTALS DON'T NEED OUR HELP TO QUARREL. BUT THEY *DO* NEED HELP TO RISE ABOVE THEIR BASE NATURES.

IF THIS IS WHERE YOU TELL ME I SHOULD BE LIKE PRINCESS PERFECT, I'M GOING TO KICK YOUR ASS.

AMBASSADOR NAMED FOR SAN EGNATIO TALK

By Lois Lane

ANY FOOL CAN START A FIGHT. MANIPULATING MORTALS TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM TAKES *SKILL*.

File photo by Jimmy Olsen

SERIOUSLY, SISTER, IT'S BEEN FUN SEEING HOW MIDDLE-AGED I'M GOING TO LOOK IN A FEW EONS' TIME.

BUT I'M OUT OF HERE.

NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M A GODDESS!

OF COURSE YOU ARE, DEAR. BUT TRAVEL STILL BROADENS THE MIND.

EAST OF THE MOUNTAINS-- MOROTA. MARXIST DICTATORSHIP.

WEST--SAN EGNATIO. EQUALLY REPRESSIVE, DIFFERENT POLITICS.

BORDER SKIRMISHES EVERY YEAR. TWO STALLED ECONOMIES.

SOUNDS LIKE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

IS THAT THE LIMIT OF YOUR IMAGINATION? BEING A PALE SHADOW OF OUR BROTHER ARES?

IS THIS HOW YOU MOTIVATE MORTALS? *NAGGING?* WOW.

NOT EXACTLY THUNDERBOLTS AND PESTILENCE, IS IT? DAD MUST BE DISAPPOINTED.

LET ME SHOW YOU.

IT'S MUCH MORE INTERESTING THIS WAY.

WE IMMORTALS NEED MORE ENTERTAINING WAYS TO WHILE AWAY ETERNITY THAN STARTING BAR BRAWLS.

"IMMORTALITY...ETERNITY...EVERYTHING IS FINITE. GODS WILL DIE. THE UNIVERSE WILL GROW COLD AND INACTIVE. EVERYTHING WILL CEASE TO EXIST, AND ALL ACTS, GOOD AND BAD, WILL BE IRRELEVANT.

"BEING A GOD IS ONLY A MATTER OF SCALE."

THERE'S LITTLE TO LOVE ABOUT EITHER COUNTRY.

POVERTY AND NEGLECT HERE...

Klikkk

...AND BRUTAL SECRET POLICE THERE.

SO WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO ISN'T A REWARD FOR THEIR BEING PARAGONS OF DEMOCRACY.

OH NO YOU DON'T--*MY* TURN.

DAMN--

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE TO GO WHERE *I* GO.

THERE'S A NOT A LOT TO KEEP THEM BUSY.

HEY, SHOW ME YOUR HAND! YOU BEEN *CHEATING?*

I DON'T THINK I CAUSED THAT.

DON'T MIND THEM.

NO. BUT MORTALS PREFER TO SHIRK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS. AND YOU CRAVE THE CREDIT...

NOW LET'S GIVE THEM SOMETHING POSITIVE. SOMETHING WORTH STRIVING FOR.

OIL.

I'M SURE HADES WON'T MIND US INTERFERING WITH THE WORLD BELOW.

AFTER ALL, IT'S ONLY THE PLUMBING.

CHEAP THEATRICS. I'M COMFORTED, ERIS. I WAS STARTING TO THINK YOU MIGHT BE CLASSY.

AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET ANYONE TO NOTICE OIL IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?

TRUE. I'D BETTER TIP OFF SAN EGNATIO'S DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

AND *EL CAMARADA PRESIDENTE* IN MOROTA.

REMEMBER, THIS IS TECHNICALLY MOROTA'S SOIL. THEY WERE GOING TO CEDE IT TO SAN EGNATIO.

NOW *THAT'S* GOING TO THROW A WRENCH IN DEAR DIANA'S PEACE TALKS...

I'LL MEET YOU THERE. I'M TAKING ANOTHER ROUTE.

SHE THINKS SHE CAN FIX THE WORLD'S ILLS.

ERIS, DID YOU TIP OFF MOROTA TO THWART DIANA?

NO. AN UNPLANNED CONSEQUENCE.

THIS IS CRAZY.

NO, THIS IS *US*.

"I DID NOT FORESEE THIS. MY DAUGHTER STRIFE IS NOW AT WAR WITH HERSELF.

"AND OUR AMAZON PRINCESS--WHO KNOWS HOW SHE MIGHT COMPLICATE THINGS?

"GODS, MEN--WE ALL PLAN ONLY ONE BLIND STEP AHEAD."

MOROTA-SAN EGNATIO BORDER:
DIPLOMATIC MISSION, DAY ONE.

"THEY SAY IT TAKES NINE DAYS FOR AN ANVIL TO FALL FROM OLYMPUS TO EARTH, AND NINE MORE FOR IT TO REACH THE DEPTHS OF HADES.

"BUT NEWS MOVES MUCH FASTER IN THE SMALL WORLD OF MORTALS.

"ONCE MATTER WAS FORMED BY MOTHER KHAOS, IT SET ITSELF IN MOTION.

"THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, EVEN THE GODS, UNFOLDED AS AN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE.

"WE ARE NOT UNCARING. WE SIMPLY PRIZE OUR OWN CONTINUED EXISTENCE, LIKE YOU.

"BUT AS MORTALS ARE MERE FLASHES OF LIGHT, AND WHAT IS GOOD FOR ONE IS DISASTER FOR ANOTHER, ASKING A GOD TO TINKER WITH A SINGLE DETAIL...

"...IS A GAMBLE."

DIANA? DIANA, THIS IS MARK-- THE SITUATION'S DEVELOPING FASTER THAN WE EXPECTED.

UTEVILA, SAN EGNATIO.

AEROPUERTO SAN EGNATIO

ALL I'LL SAY IS THAT IT'S ASTONISHING TIMING. IS IT GENUINE?

LOOKS LIKE IT. THEY'RE DEFINITELY DRILLING. AND BOTH ARE MOVING UP TROOPS.

IF IT'S A PLOY, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR EITHER SIDE.

NO, IT DOESN'T.

BUT IT'S POTENTIAL GOOD NEWS. WE CAN HELP THEM ON THE OIL FRONT.

ONCE WE'VE STOPPED THEM FIGHTING, OF COURSE...

IS IT USUALLY LIKE THIS?

IT'S A LITTLE MORE ***TENSE*** THAN USUAL, MA'AM. BUT DON'T WORRY. WE HAVE SECURITY UNITS IN FRONT AND BEHIND.

THEY JUST WANT A BETTER SHARE OF WHATEVER THE OIL BRINGS.

I'M NOT WORRIED. SIMPLY CURIOUS.

"IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO ALLOW US TO USE YOUR FACILITIES, CONSUL."

"YOU'RE MOST WELCOME, YOUR HIGHNESS. WE LIVE IN INCREASINGLY INTERESTING TIMES, DO WE NOT?

BRITISH CONSULATE

YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN YOUR SUITE. CAN WE GET YOU A...JACKET?

DON'T WORRY. I PACKED A SUIT. I DON'T WANT TO UNSETTLE EITHER PRESIDENT ANY MORE THAN I NEED TO.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCE. SO IF THIS IS YOUR DOING, ARES, SHOW YOURSELF.

THE OIL DEPOSITS. IT'S A RATHER CLUMSY STUNT. OVERSTRETCHED, ARE YOU?

AH, *NOW* I UNDERSTAND. SUITS ARE IN, THEN...

I BELIEVE THE MORTALS CALL THAT *RE-INVENTING YOURSELF.*

I CAN ASSURE YOU I'M DOING THIS FOR THE GOOD OF THESE MORTALS.

STAY OUT OF THIS, ERIS. *GOOD* ISN'T IN YOUR TRACK RECORD.

THEY'RE BOTH STAGNANT NATIONS. NOTHING WILL IMPROVE FOR THEM WITHOUT SOME *INCENTIVE.*

YOU COULD HAVE DONE THAT BY HAVING THEM FIND OIL ON UNDISPUTED TERRITORY. ***BOTH*** SIDES OF THE BORDER.

BUT HUMANS RUN ON ENVY. THEY WANT WHAT OTHERS HAVE.

WITHOUT THAT, THEY'D STILL BE LIVING IN CAVES.

I TOOK A VOW THAT I WOULD BRING PEACE AND JUSTICE TO THE PATRIARCHS' WORLD, AND BY ***HONESTY,*** NOT BY--

--BY ***TRICKERY?***

HELP ME! GET ME OUT OF THIS BITCH!

TOUGH LOVE. SHE'S A HANDFUL. WE HAVE TO DO IT.

YOU'RE MY SISTER! HELP ME! ***PLEASE!***

GET OUT. GET OUT, WHATEVER YOU ARE!

INTERFERE WITH THIS, AND I'LL INVOKE ZEUS.

WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE GODS WAS *THAT?* APATE THE DECEIVER?

NO, AMAZON. THAT WAS INDEED STRIFE IN BOTH OF HER FORMS.

MOTHER NIGHT--I MEANT NO DISRESPECT.

I'VE COME TO PREVENT WAR. I MAY BE TOO LATE, THANKS TO HER.

A MORTAL PRAYED FOR AN END TO WAR, SO I OBLIGED BY CURBING STRIFE FOR A WHILE. ERIS IS HER MORE CONSIDERED SIDE.

BUT I HAVE A DIPLOMATIC DUTY, MOTHER NIGHT.

YES, YOU DO. I CANNOT STOP YOU. NOR WOULD I WISH TO. EVENTS MUST TAKE THEIR COURSE.

THEN I CAN'T ASK YOU FOR HELP, EITHER.

YOU CAN, BUT MY HELP MAY HINDER, SO IT'S BEST NOT GIVEN.

AND THERE IS NO NEED TO FEAR ME.

ZEUS DOES, MOTHER NIGHT.

ZEUS KNOWS HE HAS CAUSE, BUT CANNOT RECALL WHY.

STRIFE HAS FREE WILL. SO DO YOU. YOU MAY NEED TO CREATE A LEVEL BATTLEFIELD IN WAYS ALIEN TO YOU, AMAZON.

BACK TO THE PROSAIC WORLD, THEN. AND NONE THE WISER.

I'D LIKE TO PLACE A CALL TO PRESIDENT FLORES, PLEASE.

PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, UTEVILA: DIPLOMATIC MISSION, DAY TWO.

THERE'S NO GOOD TIME FOR THIS, MADAM AMBASSADOR.

IF WE HAD REVEALED THE DISCOVERY AFTER SIGNING A TREATY, COMRADE ORTIZ WOULD STILL HAVE HAD HIS TANTRUM.

HOW DO WE TAKE THE HEAT OUT OF THIS, THEN?

HE COULD PULL BACK HIS TROOPS.

HE'S POSTPONED OUR MEETING. I'LL KEEP TRYING.

WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT YOU, MADAM, AND WE ARE NOT SURE IF WE BELIEVE ALL THIS...*WONDER WOMAN* STORY.

BUT WE KNOW YOU STAND OUTSIDE THE OLD POWER STRUCTURES. WHICH COUNTS.

TELL ME ABOUT THEMYSCIRA. TELL ME WHY YOU DO THIS.

WELL, WE HAVE NO OIL...BUT WE DON'T SEEK IT.

WE LIVE A SIMPLE LIFE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ANTIQUITY.

AND MY MISSION IS TO END ARMED CONFLICT.

BUT ON A MORE IMMEDIATELY ACHIEVABLE NOTE, IF YOU WERE TO INTRODUCE FREE ELECTIONS AND RELEASE SOME OF YOUR POLITICAL PRISONERS, IT WOULD HELP PERSUADE MY U.N. COLLEAGUES TO LIFT TRADE SANCTIONS FASTER.

I ADMIRE A WOMAN WHO GETS TO THE POINT.

I'LL BE ASKING SEÑOR ORTIZ THE SAME THING.

MOROTA-SAN EGNATIO BORDER: DIPLOMATIC MISSION, DAY FOUR.

YOU KNOW, I HADN'T REALLY PLANNED FOR A WAR. VERY WASTEFUL.

NEVER MIND. IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ONE, LET'S HAVE A PROPER ONE. GET IT OVER WITH.

THERE'S ALWAYS AN ADVANTAGE TO BE FOUND.

LET'S GET DIANA OUT OF THE PICTURE. SHE'S A BARRIER TO PROGRESS.

ML

PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES, UTEVILA...

HERE'S THE BRIEFING ON THE THEMYSCIRAN AMBASSADOR.

SO THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS HER POSITION.

COMRADE ORTIZ NEEDS THIS BRIEFING NOTE BEFORE HIS MEETING.

FIRST JOINT MEETING, BRITISH CONSULATE, UTEVILA: DIPLOMATIC MISSION, DAY SIX.

ARE THEY HERE? ARE THEY TALKING?

WELL, WE HAVE A TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE, AND THEY'RE AT THE SAME TABLE.

BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS WRONG. I HEAR THEY'VE HAD SOME BRIEFING NOTE.

AND NOT FROM US. IT SEEMS TO HAVE UPSET THEM.

THIS BETTER NOT BE AN OIL COMPANY MAKING OVERTURES TO THEM ALREADY.

OKAY...

...GENTLEMEN. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

SO, MADAM AMBASSADOR...YOU'RE FROM THE RULING CLASS IN A SOCIETY WHERE MEN HAVE NO RIGHTS. IN FACT, ALL MALE CHILDREN ARE ABANDONED AT BIRTH.

AND YOU PRESUME TO CRITICIZE SAN EGNATIO'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD?

AND FROM A NATION OF WARRIORS. A NATION THAT STILL PRACTICES AN ANCIENT GREEK CULTURE.

AND WE ALL KNOW ABOUT THE GREEKS' IDEA OF ***DEMOCRACY.*** VOTES FOR THE LANDOWNERS, BUT NOT FOR WOMEN, SLAVES, OR THE POOR.

MADAM, LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND TELL ME IF THIS IS TRUE OR NOT.

YES, I'M THE DAUGHTER OF QUEEN HIPPOLYTA. AN AMAZON. AND I'M NOT PROUD OF OUR TRADITION REGARDING MALE CHILDREN.

IT'S ONE REASON WHY I LEFT THEMYSCIRA TO BROKER PEACE IN THE WORLD.

I THINK THIS DISCUSSION IS AT AN END.

I URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER. WE NEED TO FOCUS ON WHAT'S BEST FOR YOUR CITIZENS. *ALL* OF THEM.

CALL ME WHEN YOU CAN TELL ME SOMETHING OF THE *TRUTH*.

NOTHING LIKE A COMMON ENEMY TO UNITE PEOPLE, IS THERE, DIANA?

SO THIS IS YOUR DOING. AGAIN.

YOU'D LET THEM OFF THE HOOK. THEY'RE BOTH TYRANTS.

WITH A WAR, ONE WILL LOSE, HE'LL BE OVERTHROWN, AND THE CITIZENS WILL TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY.

THEN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WILL BE FORCED TO CHANGE, TOO.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THAT HASN'T WORKED IN MORTAL HISTORY?

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES IT *HAS?*

PERHAPS YOU'LL UNDERSTAND *THIS.*

=NRGGH!=

DIANA, HELP ME--HELP ME STOP HER!

"GODDESSES BRAWL OVER THE FATE OF MORTALS, NOT THE GRAND SCHEME OF THE UNIVERSE.

"DIANA, LIKE STRIFE, ALSO HAS TWO ASPECTS: DEMI-GOD AND MORTAL.

"I FIND THE SECRET TO HANDLING MANY FACETS OF THE SELF IS TO LET EACH COME AND GO AS IT PLEASES."

I CAN'T KILL YOU. BUT I *CAN* PUT YOU ON ICE FOR A WHILE.

BUT I CAN KILL *YOU.*

INCOMING!

NO-- CHECK FIRE. IT'S--

HELL, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IT IS. BUT IT'S NOT ORDNANCE...

I'LL KEEP HER BUSY IF YOU SWEAR YOU'LL FREE ME FROM HER.

THAT'S BEYOND ME.

IT'S NOT. INTERCEDE FOR ME--OR DUMP HER IN HEPHAESTUS'S FURNACE. I DON'T CARE. JUST END THIS FOR ME.

AT LEAST YOU DON'T DELUDE YOURSELF THAT YOU'RE DOING MORTALS A FAVOR.

LET'S GO EXPLORING, ERIS.

LET'S SEE WHERE ALL YOUR LOVELY OIL CAME FROM.

WHY WASTE YOUR TIME? YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T DESTROY ME.

NO, BUT I CAN BURY YOU AGAIN ONE DAY, YOU SANCTIMONIOUS BITCH.

KEEP HER BUSY WHILE I EXERCISE SOME DIPLOMACY.

I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU HOLD YOUR FIRE, GENTLEMEN.

HOW AM I GOING TO GET FLORES AND ORTIZ BACK TO THE TABLE NOW?

I HAVE TO PLAY BY MORTAL RULES. FOR A FEW HOURS, AT LEAST.

BRITISH CONSULATE: DIPLOMATIC MISSION, DAY SEVEN.

MARK, IT'S DIANA. NEWS?

ORTIZ HAS TOLD FLORES TO PULL OUT OF THE BORDER REGION BY THE END OF THE MONTH. NINE DAYS.

AND IF THIS ESCALATES?

AS SOON AS THAT OIL BUBBLED UP, THE PLACE STOPPED BEING IRRELEVANT AND BECAME PRIME REAL ESTATE.

YOU MEAN IT'S WORTH INTERFERING IN THEIR AFFAIRS.

I HEAR THERE ARE ALREADY CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR PEACEKEEPING, INTERVENTION, STABILIZATION...

I HAVE TO LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD, DIANA.

I UNDERSTAND. YOUR NATION'S INTERESTS COME FIRST.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE ROAD TO HELL.

AND THAT'S *MY* REAL WORLD.

"GIVE MORTALS A GIFT, AND IT SPARKS A WAR.

"TAKE A LIFE, AND YOU MAY AVERT ONE."

MOTHER NYX, IF ERIS--IF STRIFE CAN GIVE ONE NATION OIL, WOULD IT BE SO HARD TO GIVE IT TO *BOTH*?

WOULD THAT SOLVE THE *OTHER* PROBLEMS THAT TROUBLE YOU, AMAZON?

THE INJUSTICE, THE POVERTY, THE VIOLENCE?

ORTIZ SAID TO COME BACK WHEN I WAS READY TO TELL THE TRUTH.

THEN TRY TELLING THEM THE TRUTH AS A GODDESS. NOT AS A BUREAUCRAT.

NOW *THAT'S* GOOD ADVICE.

OR BAD...

PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE, UTEVILA: DIPLOMATIC MISSION, DAY EIGHT.

SIR, THE THEMYSCIRAN AMBASSADOR'S CALLED *FIVE TIMES.*

DEMANDING HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS, NO DOUBT.

SHE INSISTS...

AND *I* INSIST YOU TELL HER I CAN'T TAKE HER CALLS..

SHE'S A PUPPET FOR WASHINGTON. OR LONDON. OR BOTH.

I DON'T THINK SHE--

YOU SAID YOU HAD YOUR DOUBTS ABOUT THE WONDER WOMAN STORIES, MR. PRESIDENT?

SECURITY! GET IN HERE!

ALL TRUE. AND MORE.

THIS WON'T HURT A BIT.

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT ORTIZ, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOROTA.

DO *NOT* PROVOKE ME, GENTLEMEN.

YOU WANTED THE TRUTH?

THEN SEE ME AS I REALLY AM.

YOUR BODYGUARDS CAN'T HELP YOU.

YOU TWO WILL REACH AN AGREEMENT. *NOW.*

I'M NOT EASILY THREATENED, MADAM AMBASSADOR. EVEN AFTER ALL *THIS.*

FINE. THEN A DOSE OF REALITY WON'T HURT.

YOU DON'T LIKE EACH OTHER. I DON'T LIKE WHAT EITHER OF YOU STAND FOR.

BUT IF YOU START AN ALL-OUT WAR, YOU'RE GIVING OTHERS AN EXCUSE TO SEND IN TROOPS.

SAN EGNATIO

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOROTA

AND THEN THE FOREIGN CORPORATIONS WILL MOVE IN TO HELP YOU REBUILD. AND YOUR COUNTRIES WILL BELONG TO THEM.

AGREE TO JOINT OWNERSHIP OF THE OIL FIELD AND DEVELOP IT TOGETHER.

THEY'RE GETTING READY TO INTERVENE IF YOU DON'T.

IS THIS A PREDICTION, OR INFORMATION?

BOTH.

AND YOU WOULD UPSET YOUR AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FRIENDS TO HELP US, WOULD YOU?

NO, TO HELP YOUR CITIZENS.

BUT I'LL NEED YOU TO PULL YOUR TROOPS BACK FIRST.

SHE'S RIGHT. I CAN'T STAND YOU.

NOR I YOU. BUT I DISLIKE AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES MORE.

WE HAVE A DEAL, THEN.

MOROTA-SAN EGNATIO BORDER: DIPLOMATIC MISSION, DAY NINE.

MADAM AMBASSADOR, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU?

I'LL BEHAVE. I PROMISE I WON'T SCARE ANYONE THIS TIME.

OF COURSE, STRIFE, THERE'S NO REASON YOU'D BE HANGING AROUND HERE ANYWAY.

BUT YOU ASKED FOR MY HELP.

WELL, TALK TO ME, THEN.

YOU'RE UP EARLY, MOTHER NIGHT. YES, I SUCCEEDED. IN SOME WAYS.

YOU SUCCEEDED, AMAZON? I HEAR DOUBT.

I REVEALED MY ALLIES' PLANS TO TYRANTS TO GET A TREATY SIGNED.

BUT THAT'S DIPLOMACY.

IN THE LIFE OF THE UNIVERSE, IT MATTERS NEITHER WAY. YOU ACTED. EVENTS FOLLOWED.

IT MATTERS TO *ME*.

THERE ARE ALWAYS LOOSE THREADS. EVEN FOR GODS.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT THAT THERE'S NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD.

BUT IF I FORGET MY MORAL COMPASS, THERE WILL BE NO *ME*.

SISTER, I DID AS YOU ASKED! TAKE MY HAND-- *FREE ME!*

AND IF I DO, STRIFE, WILL YOU KEEP *YOUR* WORD?

I *DID*. I TRAPPED ERIS WHILE YOU PLAYED POLITICS. NOW *FREE ME*.

I WISH I COULD, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TRUST YOU.

WE HAD A *DEAL!*

LET'S GIVE THE PEACE TREATY TIME TO SETTLE FIRST.

SETTLE? YOU'RE *ABANDONING* ME?

TEMPORARILY.

NO! DON'T LEAVE ME!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, DIANA! YOU HEAR ME? I'LL BE BACK FOR *YOU*--

"THE MORTALS CALL THAT **REALPOLITIK**. I CALL IT PRUDENCE.

"PEACE IN NINE DAYS, AMAZON. PEACE FOR SOME, ANYWAY, AND PERHAPS NOT FOREVER. EVEN GODS CAN DO NO BETTER."

End

BOTH ENDS OF THE LEASH

CARLA SPEED MCNEIL
WRITER & ARTIST

JENN MANLEY LEE
COLORIST

DERON BENNETT
LETTERER

BUT YOU'RE *COMIN'*, RIGHT? YOU'RE COMIN' *NOW?*

I KNOW I LIVE OUT IN THE ASS-END OF NOWHERE.

TELLYA WHAT, YOU COME *GET* THE THING, I'LL MOVE BACK TO TOWN.

OKAY?

OKAY.

AH, *DAMN.*

WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU *THIS* TIME?

WHY SO FLINCHY, SKINNY-SCREAMY-BALD-GUY?

GUILTY CONSCIENCE?

OHHH, CRAP, DON'T FREAK OUT, I CAN--DON'T PANIC, I'LL JUST--

=HEE HEE HEE=

HUNH?

THAT'S HIS NAME. ISN'T IT, HOT-BREATH-HOT-BLOOD?

NO IT AIN'T, HIS NAME'S ROMMEL!

YOU REALLY NAILED HIM, HOT-BREATH-HOT-BLOOD!

OH, SKINNY-SCREAMY-BALD-GUY. IF YOU *LISTENED* TO YOUR FRIEND HERE, YOU'D KNOW BETTER.

I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO HIM, AND HE HAS *PLENTY* TO SAY ABOUT *YOU*.

ABOUT ALL THE THINGS YOU DON'T DO ANYMORE.

HOW YOU USED TO *PLAY* WITH HIM.

HOW YOU SHARED YOUR *HOME* WITH HIM.

THAT YOU USED TO *FEED* HIM.

LOOK, I *HAD* TO STARVE HIM! YOU DON'T *KNOW*--

HE'S JUST--

HE'S A *BAD LION.*

HE'S GONE *ROGUE* OR SOMETHING!

WHAT IF THE *NEXT* PERSON HE BITES IS, LIKE, A LITTLE *KID?*

I'D FEEL SO GUIL--

I TRIED TYING HIM UP, I TRIED A *CHOKE* COLLAR, A *PINCH* COLLAR, EVEN ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT *SHOCKS* HIM!

NOTHING WORKS!

IF I DIDN'T-- WEAK HIM *UP* SOME, I COULDN'T EVEN GET OUT OF THE HOUSE! I'M STARVIN' *TOO*, Y'KNOW!

IT'S NOT LIKE I *LIKE* SEEIN' HIM ALL--ALL--

=URRRRWL=

HE WAS SO *BEAUTIFUL*...

I DUNNO WHAT WENT WRONG.

HE WAS JUST LIKE A *PUPPY*, BUT *BETTER*, 'CAUSE HE WASN'T GONNA GROW UP TO BE SOME BIG GOOFY *DOG*.

NAW, HE'D BE *KING*! KING O' THE BEASTS, MAN! HE'D HAVE SOME *DIGNITY*!

FA AARTT

IT'S A GOOD SIGN! I'VE BEEN OUT HERE ALL NIGHT FEEDING HIM.

SNERK

WHEN I WAS SMALL, I WAS A BIT HARD TO HANDLE, TOO.

"THE AMAZON COUNCIL DID **NOT** KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH ME.

"SO MOTHER WOULD GET ME OUT OF THEIR WAY. I DIDN'T CARE--I DIDN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THEM DISCUSS PHILOSOPHY ANY MORE.

"SHE'D SET ME OUT ON LITTLE QUESTS.

" 'DIANA, BRING ME A FLOWER FROM THE TOPMOST BRANCH OF THE TALLEST TREE ON MOUNT IDA.'

" 'BRING ME A GOLD RING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BLACK TARN.'

" 'BRING ME THE BIGGEST AMETHYST YOU CAN FIND FROM THE FROZEN WATERFALL.'

ALWAYS "BRING ME SOMETHING."

SOMETHING OF VALUE.

"ONE DAY MOTHER SENT ME TO FIND A LITTLE TEMPLE, JUST LIKE A HUNDRED OTHER LITTLE TEMPLES ON OUR ISLAND. THIS TIME SHE DIDN'T TELL ME WHAT SHE WANTED ME TO BRING BACK.

"BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS EASY TO SEE WHAT SHE'D LIKE!

"IT LIKED TO PLAY ROUGH, LIKE I DID!"

HA HA HA

=OW!=

=OW!=

"I KNEW BETTER THAN TO STRIKE IN ANGER, BUT--

"IN THAT MOMENT--

"--YOU MUST UNDERSTAND:

"AT THE AGE OF NINE I WAS ALREADY A ***WARRIOR.***

"I KNEW HOW TO ***KILL.***"

EYES EYES STRIKE THE EYES

"I COULD ***HURT*** THAT LION AS IT HAD HURT ***ME.***

"BUT *IN* THAT MOMENT--

"--FASTER EVEN THAN MY REFLEXES--

"--I REALIZED...

"...I *WASN'T* HURT.

"THERE WAS NO PAIN.

"NO BLOOD.

"SO...

"...I DID THE HARDEST THING.

"I DID **NOT** ATTACK."

WELL DONE, DAUGHTER!

THIS ONE IS CALLED PATIENCE.

AND *THIS* GRAND OLD FELLOW IS CALLED FORTITUDE.

DID YOU SCARE MY GIRL HALF TO DEATH? YES YOU DID!

YOU DID!

AND YOUR MOM LET YOU *KEEP* THOSE THINGS?

THEY HAVE NEVER LEFT ME.

I DON'T GET IT.

WHAT *WENT WRONG?* PEOPLE HAVE *DOGS* THIS BIG, AND IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT IS THAT THE *LION* WAS NEVER THE PROBLEM.

WHEN PEOPLE TRAIN BAD DOGS, THEY TRAIN *BOTH* ENDS OF THE LEASH.

UNDERSTAND?

AW, BUT--

HEY.

SKINNY-SCREAMY--BALD-GUY.

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR NAME. THAT'S THE GREAT THING ABOUT LION NAMES.

HE SAYS HE *USED* TO CALL YOU "DEN-BROTHER."

HUH!

WHAT?

...THAT'S MY REAL NAME. DEN. DENNIS, REALLY.

SO. NOT "D KRACKA SMACK," THEN.

=HEH.=

CAN YOU HELP ME SAVE 'IM?

YES, I THINK SO.

NO, SEE, I SOLD HIM TO ONE O' THOSE CANNED SAFARI THINGS, WHERE THEY'LL TIE HIM TO A TREE AND SOME JAGOFF IN A SUIT CAN SHOOT HIM. AND THESE GUYS, THEY'RE NOT THE KINDA GUYS WHO TAKE "I CHANGED MY MIND, NO SALE" FOR NO ANSWER--

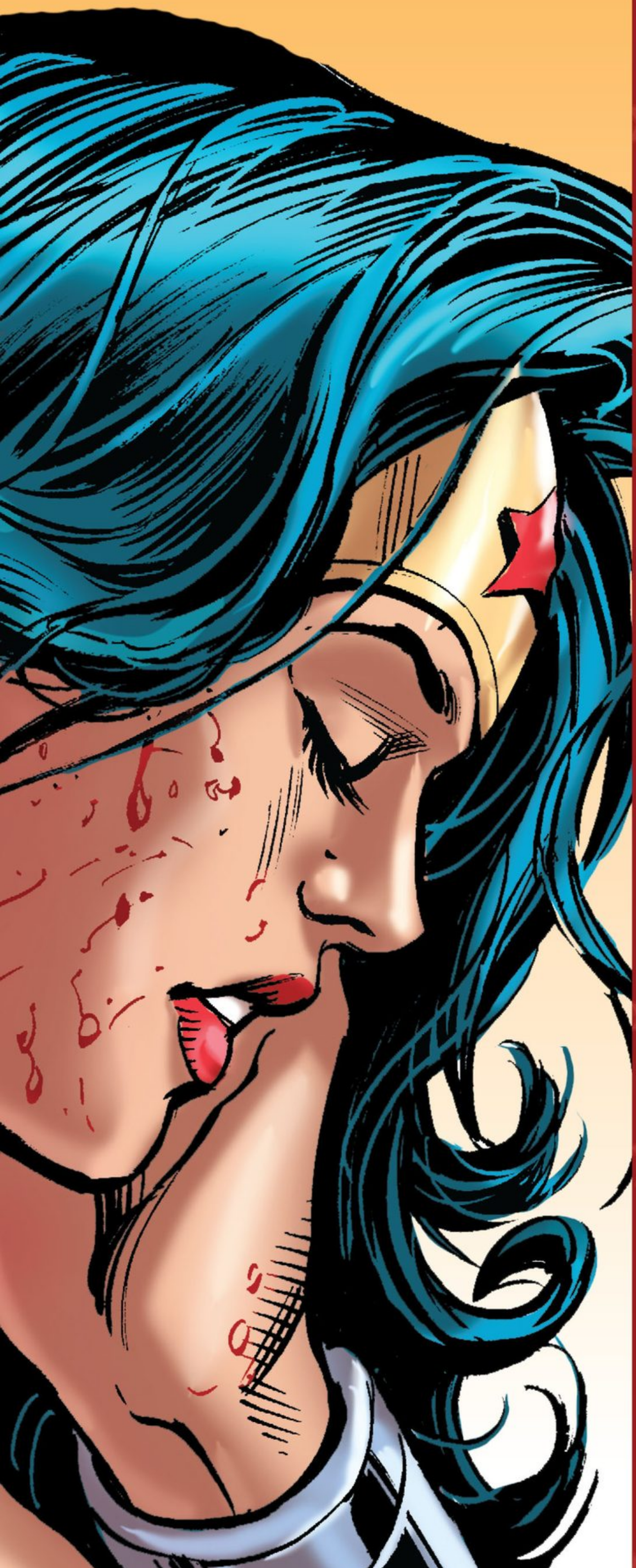
=YAWN=

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

MY TWO FRIENDS?

THEY HAVE OTHER NAMES TOO.

FIN



OUR LITTLE DANCE

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"AND WHEN WAS THIS CONFLICT?"

"LAST YEAR. AT THE *NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM* IN WASHINGTON, DC.

"IT'S THE LAST TIME I FACED THE PETITIONER IN TODAY'S HEARING, *DEBBI DOMAINE,* THE CHEETAH."

FK

FX SO

SCORPION

AND DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY *INJURIES* WERE REPORTED AS A RESULT OF *COLLATERAL* DAMAGE FROM THIS FIGHT?

MEANING: INJURIES TO *SPECTATORS, BYSTANDERS* AND OTHERWISE *NON-COMBATANTS?*

I'M SORRY, NO.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHT. SEVENTY-ONE CONSIDERED *SERIOUS.* BROKEN LEGS, CONCUSSIONS...

I-I'M *SORRY,* I DIDN'T--

X20

"NO ONE'S HOLDING ***YOU*** RESPONSIBLE, WONDER WOMAN, YOU WERE TRYING TO ***PROTECT*** THOSE PEOPLE. I'M SURE IF YOU ***HADN'T*** BEEN THERE, THE NUMBER WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH ***HIGHER.***"

"***OBJECTION,*** YOUR HONOR.

ARE WE HERE TO PRESENT THE WITNESS WITH A ***MEDAL?***

SHE'S RIGHT. KEEP IT ***MOVING,*** MISTER DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

MY ***APOLOGIES,*** YOUR HONOR. WONDER WOMAN, HOW DID THE PETITIONER COME TO ***ATTACK*** YOU THAT DAY IN THE MUSEUM?

I WAS THERE LECTURING ON ***CRIMEFIGHTING AIRCRAFT*** USED BY SUPERHUMANS WHEN THE CHEETAH ARRIVED.

SHE SAID SHE'D ESCAPED FROM THE CONCORD FEDERAL PENITENTIARY AND COME LOOKING FOR ***REVENGE*** AGAINST ME.

"IN FACT, WASN'T IT CONCORD'S ***PSYCHIATRIC*** FACILITY THAT THE CHEETAH ESCAPED FROM?"

"THAT'S CORRECT, I'M SORRY."

"***MANY*** OF YOUR ENEMIES OVER THE YEARS HAVE ESCAPED INCARCERATION AFTER BEING APPREHENDED, HAVEN'T THEY?"

"FROM PRISONS AND HOSPITALS, YES."

"MM... QUITE AN *INDICTMENT* OF OUR CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM..."

"*OBJECTION*, YOUR HONOR! THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS *EDITORIALIZING*..."

"THAT HE IS. STAY ON *POINT*, MR. LATIMER."

"YES, YOUR HONOR.

"WONDER WOMAN, HAVING BATTLED MANY METAHUMAN CRIMINALS...

"...YOU'VE *EVALUATED* AND *CONSULTED* WITH CONCORD PSYCHIATRIC AND OTHER FACILITIES ON SECURITY MEASURES AS A COURT-RECOGNIZED EXPERT, HAVEN'T YOU?"

"YES, AMONG THEM *OHLENDORFF* METAHUMAN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, THE FACILITY TO WHICH THE PETITIONER REQUESTS TO BE TRANSFERRED."

"AND WHAT WERE YOUR *FINDINGS* AT OHLENDORFF?"

"THAT THEIR SECURITY PROTOCOLS ARE *INFERIOR* TO CONCORD."

"AS A COURT-APPOINTED SECURITY EXPERT, THEN, WHAT WOULD YOUR *RECOMMENDATION* BE IN *THIS* CASE?"

"I RECOMMEND THE PETITIONER *REMAIN* AT IRON HEIGHTS PENITENTIARY UNDER *FULL LOCKDOWN*."

YOUR HONOR, MY CLIENT SUFFERS FROM ***SEVERE*** DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER.

"AS PREVIOUS WITNESSES HAVE TESTIFIED, NEITHER IRON HEIGHTS NOR ***ANY*** OTHER METAHUMAN PRISON IS ***EQUIPPED*** TO TREAT PATIENTS WITH THIS CONDITION.

"MY CLIENT'S BEHAVIOR HAS ***STABILIZED*** SINCE HER MEDICATION WAS ADJUSTED FOLLOWING HER ESCAPE FROM CONCORD... NOT GIVING HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO ***HEAL*** OR REHABILITATE AMOUNTS TO ***CRUEL AND UNUSUAL*** PUNISHMENT!"

AND PLACING A MURDEROUS CRIMINAL LIKE THE CHEETAH IN A FACILITY WE ***KNOW*** CANNOT HOLD HER IS NEGLIGENT AND IRRESPONSIBLE!

SHE WAS DEEMED ***SO*** DANGEROUS, THERE WEREN'T ***ANY*** ACCEPTABLE SECURITY CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SHE COULD EVEN APPEAR IN COURT IN PERSON!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...

...***REGARDLESS*** OF HER RECORD, MS. DOMAINE HAS ***RIGHTS,*** INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO TRY AND GET BETTER.

THE PETITIONER'S REQUEST IS HEREBY ***GRANTED.***

"I WAS ***SCREWED.***

I WAS SCREWED THE MINUTE JUDGE ***HOLZMAN*** GOT ASSIGNED TO THIS CASE...

...HE'S TRANSFERRED ***THREE*** SUPER-VILLAINS TO LOWER-SECURITY FACILITIES IN SIX MONTHS, AND ONE OF THEM IS BACK OUT ON THE STREETS ***ALREADY!***

SHAWN...

...MAYBE IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY, BUT YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE TAKING THIS AWFULLY PERSONALLY.

"PERSONALLY"?! YOU'RE DAMN ***RIGHT,*** I TAKE IT--

I'M ***SORRY,*** WONDER WOMAN. I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

...YES, I ***DO*** TAKE IT PERSONALLY. I BECAME A LAWYER TO WORK ON CASES JUST LIKE THESE.

MY SISTER... THE SCARECROW, JONATHAN CRANE, ***KILLED*** HER.

NOT ***DIRECTLY.*** HE'D ***ALREADY*** KILLED TWENTY-EIGHT PEOPLE.

"CRANE HAD THE BRIGHT IDEA OF TRYING HIS TRICKS ON A CITY *OTHER* THAN GOTHAM FOR ONCE, AND TEMPORARILY RELOCATED TO MIDWAY CITY.

"AFTER USING HIS FEAR TOXIN ON A *RETIREMENT HOME*, HE STOLE AN AMBULANCE. HAWKMAN WAS ON HIS TAIL IN NO TIME.

"IT WAS ONE OF THOSE CHASES THAT HAPPENS TWICE A DAY IN METROPOLIS, *EIGHT* IN GOTHAM... NO ONE EVER THINKS ABOUT THEM...

"...MY SISTER HAPPENED TO BE COMING HOME FROM HER JOB AT THE LIBRARY AT JUST THE *WRONG* TIME.

HAWKMAN CAUGHT THE SCARECROW SIX BLOCKS LATER. THAT WAS THE HEADLINE--*FATALITIES* FROM THE CHASE PRINTED A COUPLE PAGES *LATER.*

AND HERE'S THE KICKER: CRANE HAD ESCAPED PRISON *THE NIGHT* BEFORE.

I ASKED YOU ABOUT IT A LITTLE BIT IN COURT, BUT...

...THE NUMBER OF *INCIDENTAL* DEATHS FROM METAHUMAN BATTLES EVERY YEAR? EXPLOSIONS? BUILDING COLLAPSES? TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS? IT WOULD *SHOCK* YOU.

ANYWAY, I WAS A SOPHOMORE IN COLLEGE WHEN MY SISTER DIED. I CHANGED MY MAJOR RIGHT AFTER.

BECAUSE THE SCARECROW HAD ESCAPED CUSTODY *SIXTEEN* SEPARATE TIMES OVER THE YEARS BEFORE HIS MIDWAY CITY PERFORMANCE.

YOUR ENEMIES *NEVER* REHABILITATE, THEY *NEVER* GET BETTER, AND THEY ESCAPE *AGAIN* AND *AGAIN.* AND NOBODY SEEMS TO *DO* ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I BECAME A LAWYER SO MAYBE *I* COULD.

AND DAYS LIKE TODAY? THEY KILL ME.

ANYWAY, I HAVE AN APPEAL TO FILE. THANKS FOR TRYING TO HELP, WONDER WOMAN.

AFTER THAT CONVERSATION, I DECIDED TO STAY A FEW DAYS TO OBSERVE THE CHEETAH'S TRANSFER.

IF I'D BEEN BORN **WITHOUT** POWERS AND FELT COMPELLED TO FIGHT CRIME, WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE?

I MAYBE COULD HAVE DEDICATED MY ENTIRE LIFE TO DEVELOPING MY PHYSICAL SKILLS TO THE **UTMOST**...

...AND EVEN OUTFITTED MYSELF WITH **GEAR** AND **GADGETS** THREE STEPS **BEYOND** THE BLEEDING EDGE OF CRIME-FIGHTING TECHNOLOGY...

...BUT WHERE WOULD I **STORE** ALL THAT EQUIPMENT? HOW COULD I HAVE THE **TIME** TO DO ALL THAT TRAINING? HOW WOULD I KEEP IT **SECRET** AND **AFFORD** IT ALL?

IT'D BE ALMOST **IMPOSSIBLE.**

I'D HAVE TO BE A BILLIONAIRE.

SO WHAT OPTIONS DID SOMEONE LIKE **SHAWN LATIMER** HAVE?

JUST A NORMAL HUMAN, AFFECTED DEEPLY AND PERSONALLY BY THE KIND OF THINGS META-HUMANS--THINGS I-- DO EVERY DAY?

SOMEONE WHO, IN HIS OWN WAY, WANTS TO GIVE THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE **MEANING**?

HE COULD BECOME A FIREFIGHTER, OR A DOCTOR OR NURSE, MAYBE A SOCIAL WORKER, A POLICE OFFICER...

...A LAWYER.

MRS. DOMAINE, I ***BEG*** YOU TO RE-THINK YOUR DECISION TO MOVE YOUR NIECE...I ***PROMISE*** YOU, OHLENDORFF IS ***NO*** PLACE FOR--

WONDER WOMAN...

...DEBBI IS ***SICK.*** FOR GOD'S SAKE, SHE BELIEVES SHE'S POSSESSED BY A DEMON!

I CAN'T SEE HER LIVE OUT HER LIFE LIKE THIS...I JUST ***CAN'T.***

WONDER WOMAN?

TIME TO ***GO.***

THEY SHOULD BE HELICOPTERING THE CHEETAH TO OHLENDORFF...

THE HOSPITAL IS RIGHT IN THE AIRPORT LANDING PATTERN. IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING.

HANG ON, LET ME GET THE *POLICE BAND.*

--ROGER THAT. THIS IS ARMORED VEHICLE 1, EN ROUTE WITH **PACKAGE** TO OHLENDORFF METAHUMAN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, OVER.

HOW LONG WILL IT BE, DO YOU THINK?

HOW LONG TILL ***WHAT,*** SHAWN?

HOW LONG BEFORE YOU THINK YOU'LL HAVE TO ***FIGHT*** HER AGAIN? THE CHEETAH.

AV-1, TURNING NORTH, OVER.

I CHOOSE TO HOPE THAT I WON'T ***HAVE*** TO.

YEAH, WELL, IF ***PAST PERFORMANCE*** IS ANY INDICATOR OF ***FUTURE SUCCESS***, WONDER WOMAN...

ALL IT WILL TAKE IS ***ONE*** THERAPIST WHO MANAGES TO REACH DEBBI ***INSIDE*** THE CHEETAH AND CONVINCE HER TO TRANSFORM BACK TO HUMANITY AND HOLD ONTO IT.

THE RIGHT COURSE OF HYPNOSIS. OR DRUG THERAPY. JUST ***ONE BREAK,*** AND THEN PERHAPS WE MIGHT APPLY IT TO ***OTHER*** SUPER-CRIMINALS, AND PERHAPS, WE CAN ***END*** ALL THIS MADNESS.

BOY, YOU REALLY ***DO*** COME FROM A "PARADISE ISLAND," DON'T YOU?

*MIKE, WHAT'S...? GUYS, WHAT'S **HAPPENING** BACK THERE? **COMMAND,** THIS IS--*

WHAT THE HELL...?! HEY! WAIT! WAIT! DON'T --AAAAAA!!!

HERA...!

AAYEE!!!!!!!!
PLEASE...PLEASE, I CAN'T SEE!

SHAWN, YOU NEED TO PULL OVER AND STOP THE CAR--

S-SOMETHING IN M-MY EYES...IS...IS THAT BLOOD? IS THAT --AAAAAAAAAA!!!

MY GOD... SHE'S PLAYING WITH HIM... LIKE A CAT WITH A...

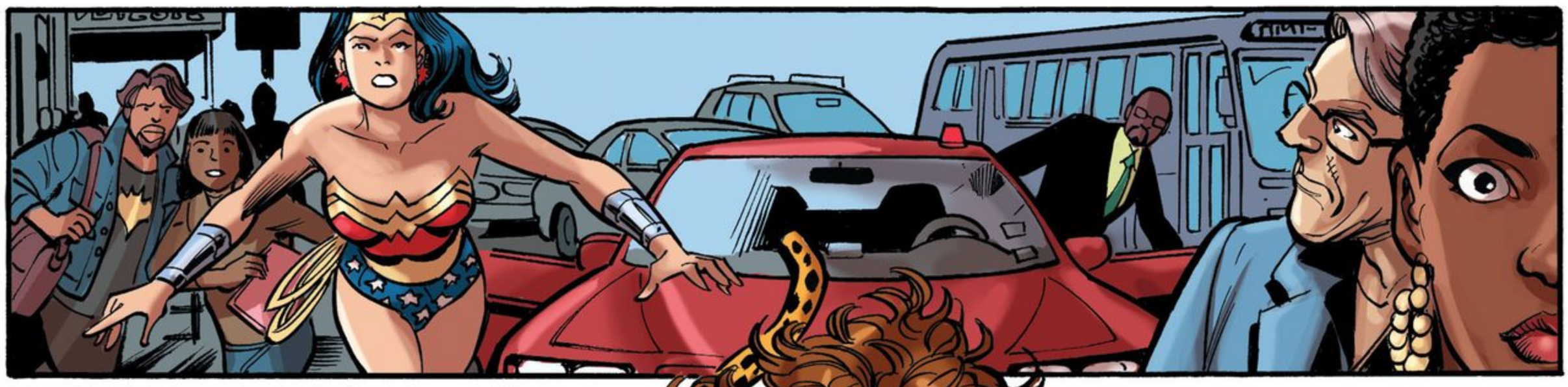
SHAWN, LISTEN! PULL OVER BEFORE--

NO...NOOOOOOOOO--!!

CRUNCH
POLICE
1602
P

SSSSSK

CRK



RRRR!

CHEETAH RAN INTO THE HOTEL AND SHE HAS *HOSTAGES!* SEAL THE REAR EXITS!

POLICE

NO ONE FIRES! I GO IN FIRST!

DEBBI! DEBBI DOMAINE!

NO ONE HERE BY *THAT* NAME...

...COME *JOIN* US, AMAZON...LET US *RESUME* OUR LITTLE DANCE...

WHERE?

B-BALLROOM!

MOVE... MOVE!

PLEASE...

DEBBI... I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME...!

YOU ARE TALKING TO A *MEMORY*, WONDER WOMAN...

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT!

...JUST LIKE *YOU'RE* GOING TO BE!

I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, DEBBI, AND I KNOW YOU WANT TO GET *BETTER!*

BUT YOU HAVE TO *FIGHT* FOR IT! FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF WHATEVER PIT THE CHEETAH HAS PUT YOU IN!

I AM IN *COMPLETE* CONTROL, AMAZON... TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

BECAUSE THE SNIVELING HUMAN YOU SEEK *GAVE* ME THAT CONTROL!

YOU'RE *LYING*...

SHE HATES YOU AS MUCH AS *I* DO!

FOR LETTING HER WASTE AWAY IN A SUCCESSION OF CELLS WHILE YOU PRATTLE ON ABOUT *"HELP"* AND *"CARE,"* LIKE *ALL* YOUR COSTUMED FRIENDS...

SHE HAS SURRENDERED TO ME SO I CAN EXPRESS HER RAGE *FOR* HER!

DEBBI... *LISTEN* TO ME.

THE CHEETAH *PERSONA*...IT'S NOTHING BUT A *KIDNAPPER*...!

SHUT UP! SHUT-- UNNGH!

IT MAY SEEM LIKE YOU HAVE THE SAME ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA, BUT YOU *ABHOR* THE CHEETAH'S METHODS! I *KNOW* YOU DO!

SHE'S *MURDERED*, RUINED *LIVES*... *YOU* WOULD NEVER SANCTION THAT!

F-FOOL... THE ONLY LIFE I'VE EVER WANTED TO RUIN IS *YOURS*...

...AND IF I HAVE TO MURDER THE FAMILY OF MY *HOST* TO DO THAT, SO MUCH THE *SWEETER!*

COME ON...
COME ON...

WE'VE GOT HIM, SIR! GET TO SAFETY!

=KOFF=
=KOFF=
=KOFF=

DEBBI, THAT'S NOT YOUR *HOST'S* FAMILY...IT'S *YOURS.* YOUR AUNT CHARLOTTE. YOUR COUSIN EDWARD AND HIS WIFE ELISE.

YOU *CAN'T* GIVE UP, DEBBI. YOU CAN'T ROLL OVER AND LET A MURDERER WITH YOUR FACE OWN YOUR LIFE.

BE QUIET! I WON'T LISTEN TO EITHER OF YOU! DON'T--

I *KNOW* YOU'VE FOUGHT, DEBBI...I KNOW YOU'RE *TIRED.*

BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE *ONE MORE STAND.* I'LL HELP YOU... EVERYONE WILL HELP YOU. DEBBI, DON'T LET *HER* WIN...DON'T *HURT* THEM...

YOU TALK LIKE THEY *MATTER,* WONDER WOMAN...

...BUT THEY'RE JUST--

WONDER WOMAN...!

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

I WANT TO TELL YOU IT IS, SHAWN...

...THE CHEETAH IS STOPPED *FOR NOW,* LIKE EVERY TIME BEFORE. SHE'S GOING BACK TO IRON HEIGHTS *FOR NOW,* LIKE EVERY TIME BEFORE...

...BUT I THINK WE BOTH KNOW THAT, LIKE EVERY TIME BEFORE, SHE WON'T STAY.

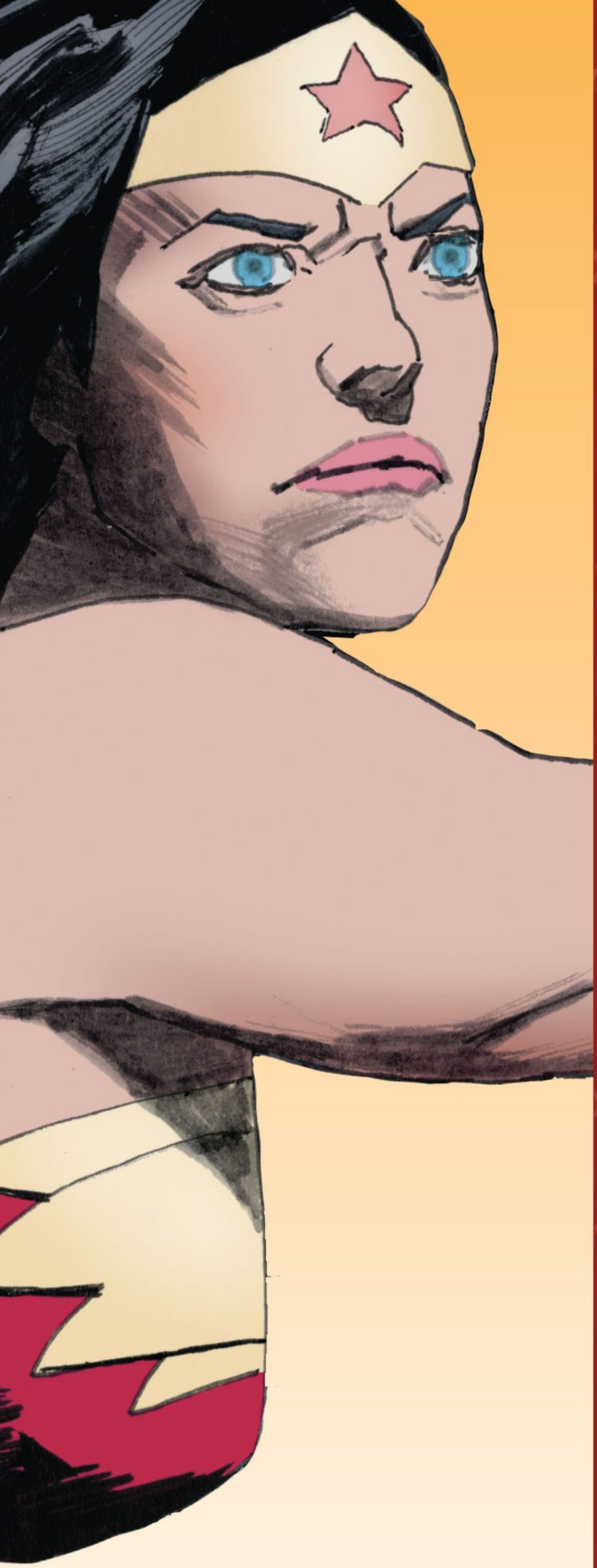
UNTIL SOMETHING, SOMEHOW, *CHANGES,* ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT FOR THE *NEXT* TIME, BECAUSE...

...WE CAN BE SURE THERE *WILL* BE A NEXT TIME...

...AND HOPE THE *ONLY* ONES WHO TAKE THE PUNISHMENT WILL BE THOSE OF US IN COSTUME. NO, SHAWN...

...EVERY-THING IS A *LONG WAY* FROM ALL RIGHT.

The End



ECHIDNA

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WRITER

SCOTT HAMPTON
ARTIST

SAIDA TEMOFONTE
LETTERER

GOTHAM CITY

CAR, MS. PRINCE?

NO THANKS. I'LL WALK.

THAT MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A GOOD IDEA. THIS TURNS INTO A PRETTY ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD A FEW BLOCKS SOUTH.

I'M TOUCHED BY YOUR CONCERN. I'LL BE FINE.

I KNOW I SHOULD BE HAPPY I WAS AT THAT PARTY.

WE RAISED A LOT OF MONEY FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

I JUST WISH THE GOOD CAUSE DIDN'T INVOLVE FOUR-INCH HEELS AND PRETENDING I THINK THE MAYOR'S JOKES ARE HILARIOUS.

AFTER A NIGHT OF CHEEK KISSING AND BAD FINGER FOOD, I REALLY NEED SOME AIR.

ATM

HEY, SEXY. YOU ON YOUR WAY TO A PARTY?

IF YOU AIN'T, YOU ARE NOW.

DO YOUR MOTHERS KNOW YOU SPEND YOUR FREE TIME HARASSING STRANGE WOMEN ON STREET CORNERS?

I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING.

"HEY SEXY, ARE YOU A FAN OF THE WORKS OF PROUST?" IS AT LEAST ORIGINAL.

GO HOME BEFORE I DRAG YOU THERE BY YOUR FACE PIERCINGS.

AHHH! SOMEBODY HELP ME!

HEY!

THIS KIND OF NIGHT IS MORE MY SPEED. NOT THE KIND OF HELPING PEOPLE THAT INVOLVES SIX-FIGURE CHECKS AND A STRING QUARTET.

THE KIND OF HELPING PEOPLE THAT'S HANDS-ON.

AND BY HANDS-ON, I MEAN SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO GO WARRIOR PRINCESS ON AN UNSTABLE MONSTER.

WHERE DID YOU TAKE THEM? SPEAK!

PUT HIM DOWN!

HRK!

WELL IF IT ISN'T THEMYSCIRA'S ANSWER TO MY-SIZE BARBIE.

THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, DIANA.

YOU PICKING ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS DOES, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, DEEPLY CONCERN ME.

AND IF YOU DON'T BACK OFF, I GUARANTEE I'LL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES.

THIS IS GOTHAM CITY. FROM WHAT I HEAR, THEY DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO FREAKS BEATING ON THE LOCALS.

BUT HE KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE!

WHERE WHO ARE?

YOU'RE NUTS, LADY! LIKE, RESERVE-A-PADDED-ROOM-IN--ARKHAM NUTS!

I *SAW* YOU!

I SAW HIM TAKE MY CHILDREN!

WHOA. HOLD ON. YOU'RE CLAIMING THIS MAN KIDNAPPED A KID?

I'M CLAIMING NOTHING! I SAW HIM WITH MY OWN TWO EYES!

LADY, YOU OBVIOUSLY CAN'T LISTEN TO HER. I MEAN, *LOOK* AT HER!

EVERYBODY TAKE A HUGE DEEP BREATH AND CALM DOWN.

WHY DOES SHE THINK YOU TOOK HER CHILD?

HELL IF I KNOW! I DRIVE THE TRUCK--THE HOT FOOD TRUCK? WE GOT A MISSION OVER AT THE CHURCH AND WE DO ROUNDS MOST NIGHTS TO FEED THE STREET FOLKS.

LIAR! YOU TROLL THE STREET LOOKING FOR PEOPLE NOBODY WILL MISS!

THE "MISSION" IS NOTHING BUT A FRONT FOR PERVERTS AND KIDNAPPERS!

GO BACK TO THE SEWER, SCALE-FACE!

STOP.

BOTH OF YOU HUSH, RIGHT NOW.

ECHIDNA AND I AREN'T ON THE BEST OF TERMS, IT'S TRUE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW MANY SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS THAT GO AROUND STRAPPED WITH A .45.

ST. LUKE'S

LADY, THIS IS GOTHAM CITY. YOU THINK THE SCUM HERE WOULDN'T JACK A TRUCK FULL OF SECONDHAND BLANKETS AND SLOPPY JOES?

HMM. SERIAL NUMBER'S FILED OFF. THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO CARRY UNTRACEABLE FIREARMS ARE USUALLY...WHAT'S THE WORD I'M THINKING OF?

OH YES. CRIMINALS.

I DID TELL YOU.

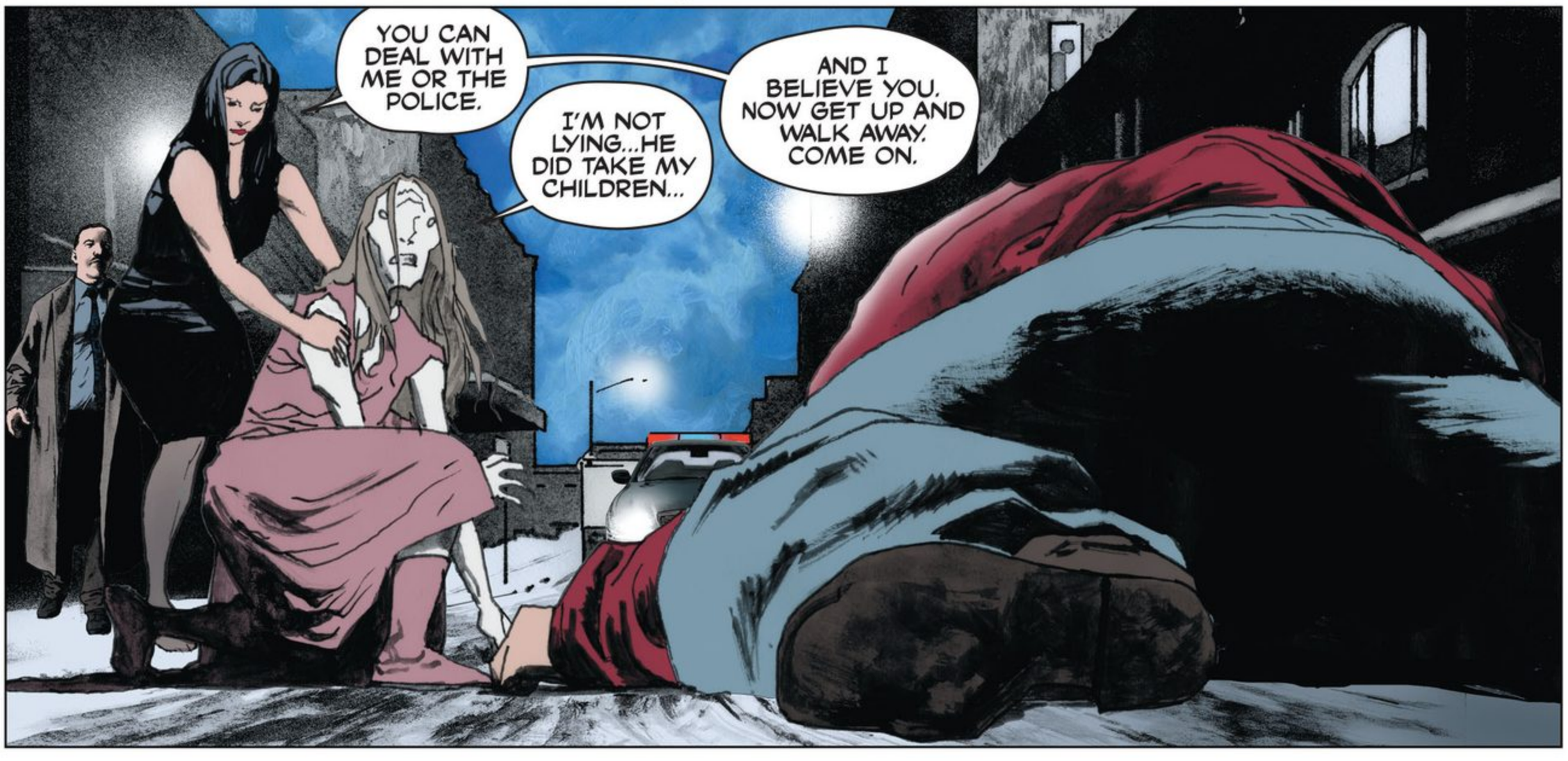
NO! STOP HIM! HE'S THE ONLY ONE...

443V443

NO! NO NO NO!
SCREEEEEEE
445V443

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE TRUCK WENT!

TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE!


YOU CAN DEAL WITH ME OR THE POLICE.
I'M NOT LYING...HE DID TAKE MY CHILDREN...
AND I BELIEVE YOU. NOW GET UP AND WALK AWAY. COME ON.

THREE OF THEM HAVE GONE MISSING IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS.

I'M ALL THEY HAVE...

YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP THEM, STAY OUT OF JAIL. WALK. NOT TOO FAST.

I DON'T WANT IT.

DON'T MAKE ME REGRET TAKING THESE. I'LL HELP YOU, BUT I NEED THE TRUTH.

WHY? YOUR KIND DOESN'T CARE ABOUT MINE.

YOU'RE WRONG THERE.

THERE WERE SO MANY MONSTERS IN THIS CITY ALREADY, I THOUGHT WE'D BE SAFE.

BUT THEN THAT CHURCH VAN CAME THROUGH AND SNATCHED THEM UP.

DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANY CHURCH I EVER HEARD OF.

LET'S SEE WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE NOT BEATING ON THEM.

OUTSOURCE MINISTRIES 55 WHARF STREET

THE TIME FOR TALKING IS PAST. IF THEY'RE IN THERE, I HAVE TO SAVE THEM.

TAKE IT EASY.

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN RESOLVE THIS POLITELY.

WAIT HERE.

REEE-EEE-EE-EEE-EE-EE

REEE-EEE-EE-EEEEE-EEE

E-EEE-EE-EEE

I GET THE FEELING THE TEMP AGENCY ISN'T PAYING YOU OVERTIME FOR THAT.

SCREW YOU! YOU AIN'T GONNA DO CRAP TO ME!

WHERE ARE THE KIDS?

WALK AWAY IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU. YOU'RE PUNCHIN' WAY ABOVE YOUR WEIGHT.

ONE OF US IS...

...BUT IT'S NOT ME.

SHOULD I ASK AGAIN? REFRESH YOUR MEMORY AFTER THAT BUMP ON THE HEAD?

YOU DON'T GOTTA DO THAT!

THE PROFESSOR'S ALREADY SHIPPED THEM OUT, OKAY?

THEY'RE DOWN AT THE PORT.

WAS THAT SO HARD?

DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'LL NEVER CATCH THEM IN TIME.

NO...NO, I TOLD YOU WHAT I KNOW! DON'T LET HER TAKE ME!

OOF!

GOOD JOB. I THOUGHT *CATCHING* CROOKS WAS MORE YOUR THING...

NOT LETTING THEM GET AWAY.

NICE TO SEE YOU TOO.

"NICE" ISN'T THE WORD I'D USE.

MIND TELLING ME WHY YOU'RE TWIRLING YOUR LASSO IN MY CITY?

SOMEONE ASKED FOR MY HELP. LAST I HEARD, THE BAT BRADY BUNCH HADN'T CORNERED THE MARKET ON AIDING CITIZENS IN NEED.

STIRRING AS IT WOULD BE TO LISTEN TO A REAL THEMYSCIRAN HERO MONOLOGUE, I NEED YOUR HELP MORE THAN WHATEVER SAD STORY YOU'RE CHASING.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL.

THERE'S BEEN A KIDNAPPING AND WE'RE SHORTHANDED. YOU'RE WITH ME.

YOU DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS.

WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE DOING THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN AN INNOCENT KID?

THREE INNOCENT KIDS.

NOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET OUT OF MY WAY, OR AM I GOING TO MOVE YOU?

I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT WITH YOU, DIANA.

MAYBE WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER.

READY TO GO VIRAL, KID?

HELL-O, INTERNET! MY SPECIAL GUEST TODAY IS...

...I FORGOT HER NAME.

LET'S CALL HER BOB.

BOB HERE IS THE ONE AND ONLY OFFSPRING OF OUR ESTEEMED DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

LUCKY GIRL IS HAVING A SLEEPOVER WITH ME, SOMEWHERE IN THE PORT OF GOTHAM.

SO IT'S TIME TO PLAY MY NEW FAVORITE GAME...

...SHIPPING CONTAINER BINGO!

EITHER YOU FIND THE KID BEFORE SUNRISE *OR* YOU SEND ME ONE MILLION DOLLARS OR...

ROUND 1

...BYE-BYE, BOBBY.

AND I WANT REAL MONEY, TOO. NONE OF THOSE BITCOINS OR WHAT HAVE YOU.

I HOPE YOU'RE GOOD AT GAMES, DADDY D.A.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IF I KILL YOUR KID, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE ELECTED GOVERNOR.

TOODLES!

I MADE A DEAL-- I'D STAY OUT OF THE LOCALS' WAY AND I WOULDN'T ASK FOR HELP.

IN RETURN, BATGIRL APPLIED HER...**UNIQUE PERSUASION** TO SOME OF THE OTHER FREAKS FLOATING AROUND THE WAREHOUSE.

IT ONLY TOOK TWO BROKEN FINGERS AND A CONCUSSION FOR THEM TO GIVE UP THEIR BOSS.

JEREMY? IS THAT YOU?

JEREMY'S TAKING A BREAK.

YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE...

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CLUE?

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR A PERFORMANCE, MYSELF, SO I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHOICE:

YOU TELL ME WHERE ECHIDNA'S CHILDREN ARE...

...AND I'LL LET YOU DOWN BEFORE ALL THE BLOOD IN YOUR BODY RUSHES TO YOUR HEAD AND YOU PASS OUT.

SAY NO...

...MAYBE YOU CAN CONVINCE ONE OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS HERE TO CUT YOU DOWN BEFORE YOUR BRAIN POPS.

BUT I DOUBT IT. THEY DON'T SEEM TO LIKE YOU MUCH.

HAHAHAHA...

...YOU'RE SO NOBLE. SO PERFECT. IN THE PEAK OF YOUR LIFE.

THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE CAN AFFORD TO CARE ABOUT THE UGLY AND MALFORMED.

IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF. ABOUT THE FACT YOU CAN'T QUITE BUTTON THOSE JEANS OR YOUR ADORABLE NOSE IS ONLY ***ALMOST*** PERFECT.

YOU'RE WRONG, BUT YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY.

THE PORT OF GOTHAM. I CAN AFFORD TO TELL YOU BECAUSE, EVEN AS PERFECT AS YOU ARE--

--YOU'RE ALREADY FAR TOO LATE.

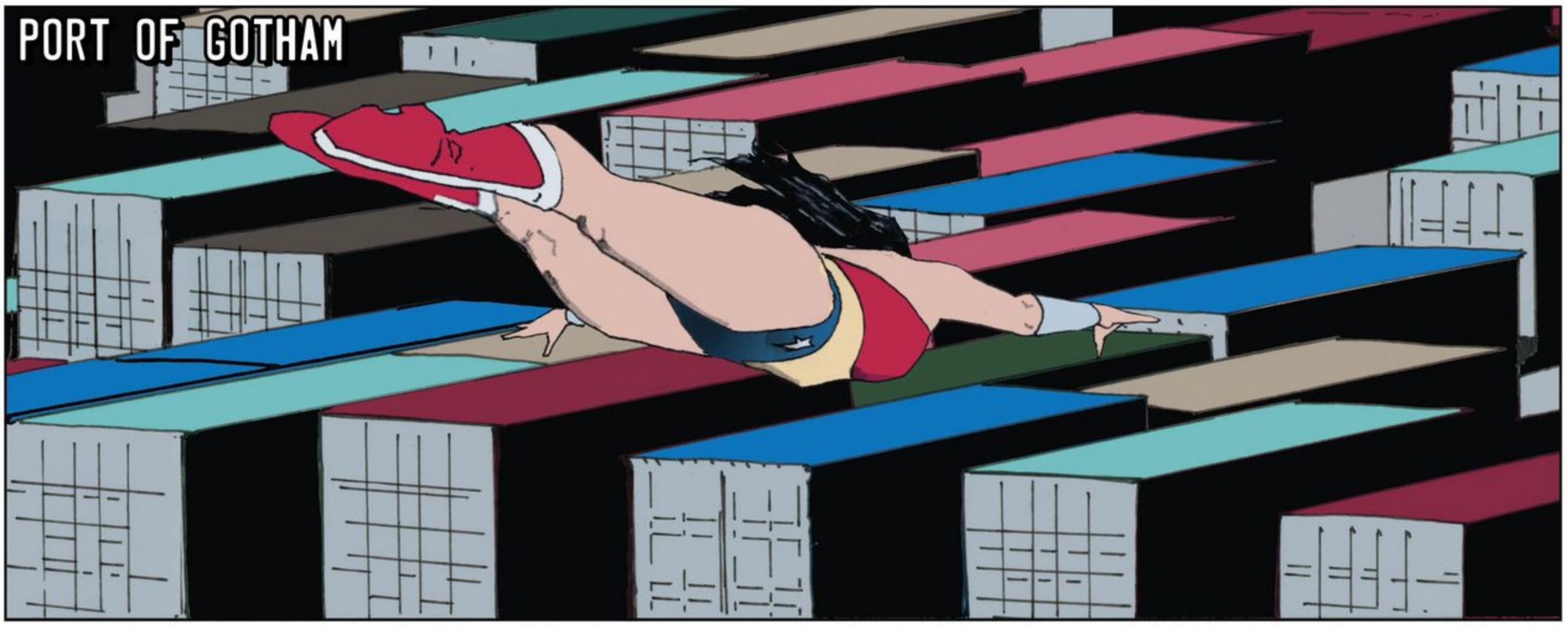
THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE ARE AS UGLY ON THE INSIDE AS THOSE CHILDREN ARE ON THEIR OUTSIDES, MY DEAR.

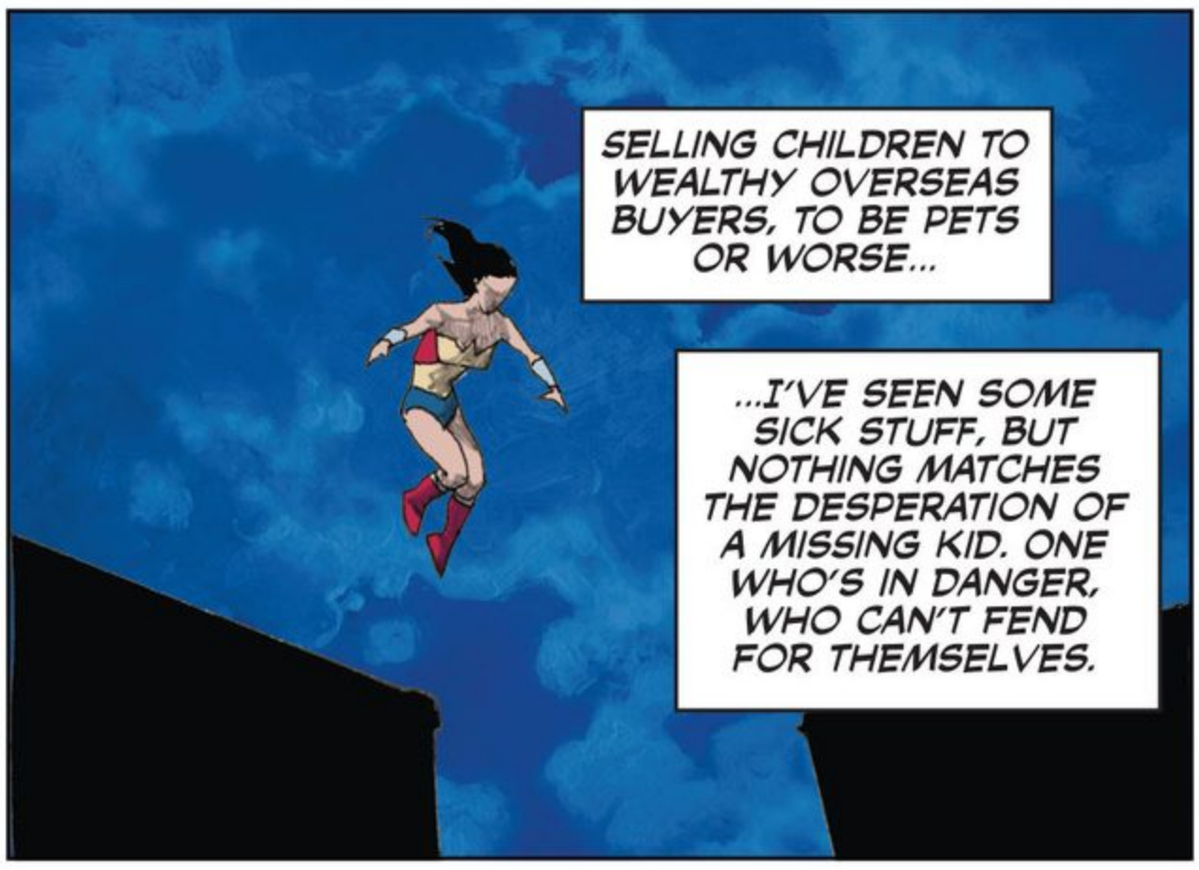
IT'S OBSCENE WHAT SOME CULTURED GENTLEMAN WITH AN ANONYMOUS BANK ACCOUNT WILL PAY FOR A CHILD WITH THE HEAD OF A LIZARD... OR A GIRL WITH A FISH TAIL...

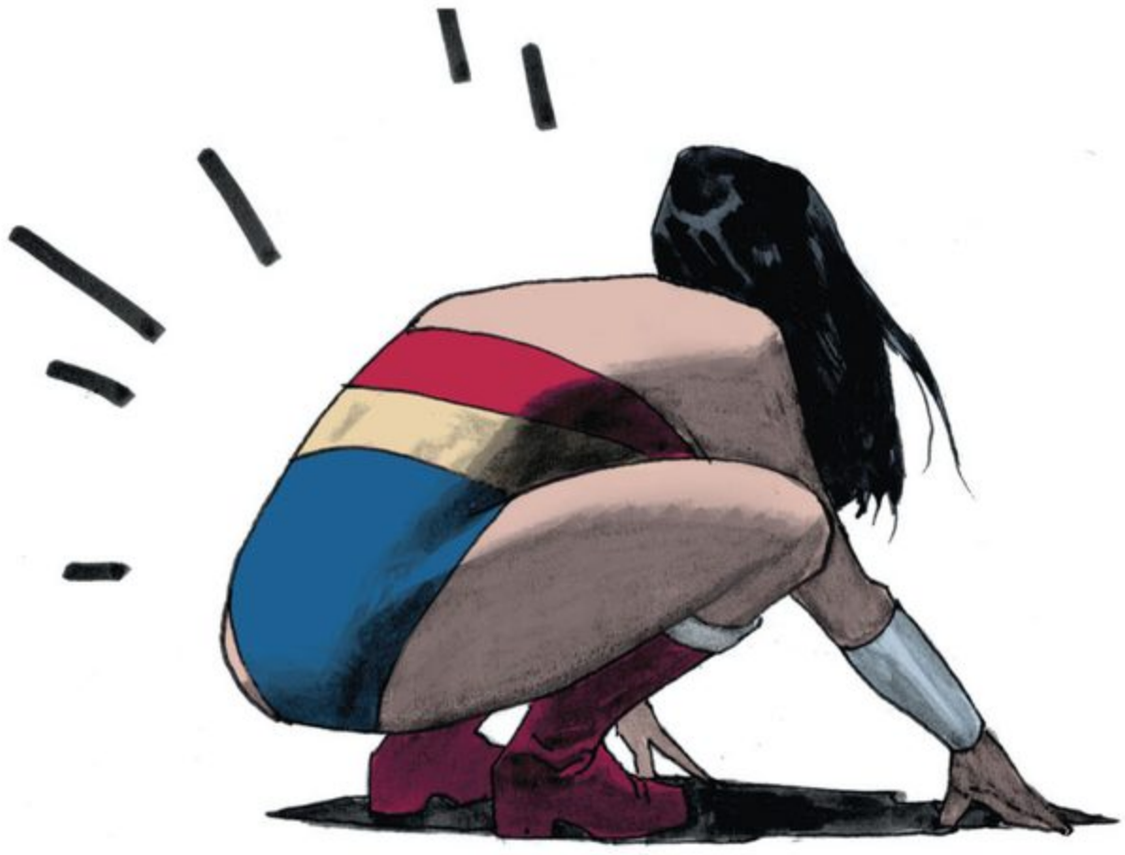
...LIKE I SAID, SEEING SUCH UGLINESS IN THE FLESH, HURTING IT...IT MAKES THE LIKES OF YOU PEOPLE FEEL BETTER.

WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT MUCH.

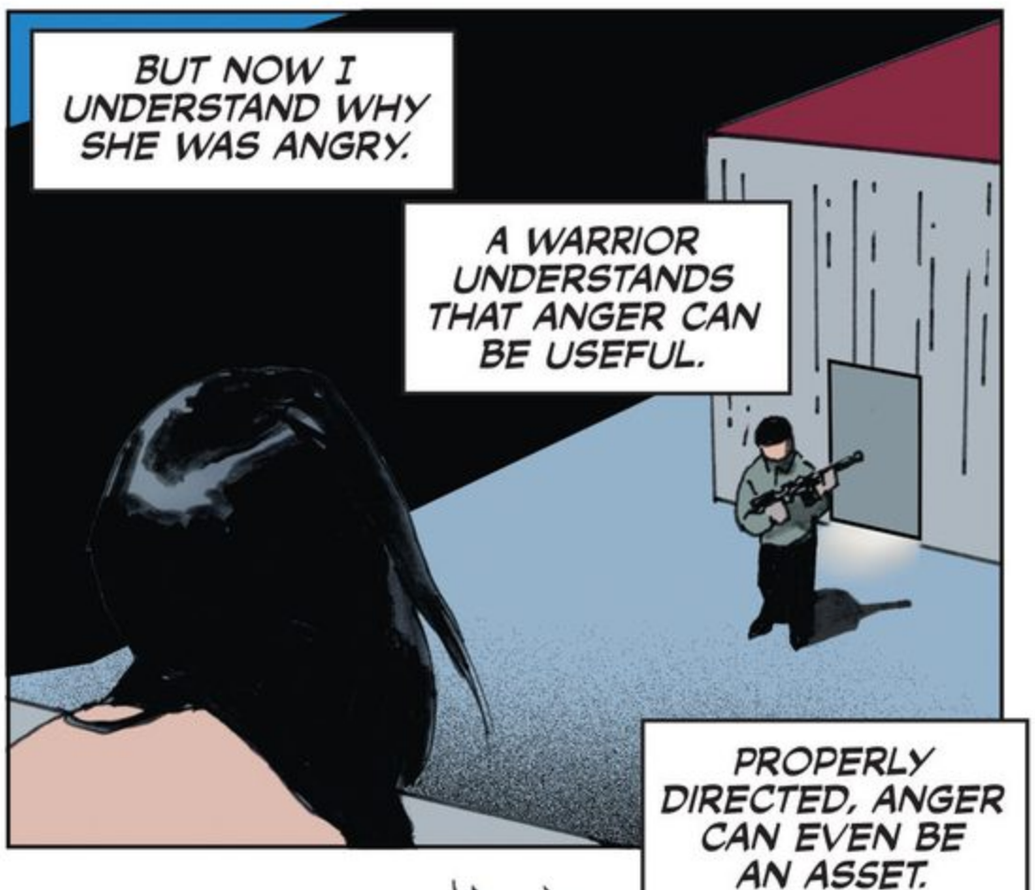
THAT DID MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.


PORT OF GOTHAM


SELLING CHILDREN TO WEALTHY OVERSEAS BUYERS, TO BE PETS OR WORSE...
...I'VE SEEN SOME SICK STUFF, BUT NOTHING MATCHES THE DESPERATION OF A MISSING KID. ONE WHO'S IN DANGER, WHO CAN'T FEND FOR THEMSELVES.



I UNDERSTOOD WHY ECHIDNA WAS DESPERATE WHEN I FOUND HER.


BUT NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY SHE WAS ANGRY.
A WARRIOR UNDERSTANDS THAT ANGER CAN BE USEFUL.
PROPERLY DIRECTED, ANGER CAN EVEN BE AN ASSET.

HMM... CARRIES A GUN, NOT DRESSED LIKE CHUCKY...

MMMMPH!

HIDY-HO, NEIGHBOR!

HEYYYYY. YOU'RE NOT A BAT. YOU'RE ALL SHINY. LOVE THE POPS OF COLOR.

REMIND ME WHO YOU ARE AGAIN?

I'M WONDER WOMAN.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

I LIKE YOU, KID. YOU'VE GOT MOXIE. I FEEL LIKE WE COULD HANG OUT, GET OUR SHOPAHOLIC ON, DOWN SOME HALF-PRICE MARGARITAS.

TOO BAD I HAVE TO KILL YOU.

LOOK OUT!

KER-

CHUNK

I HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL.

I KNOW. BUT THIS WAY IS A LOT MORE FUN.

YEAH YEAH, YAY GIRL POWER. I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU STRONG FEMALE CHARACTERS, BUT I'M JUST THE SIDESHOW.

EXCUSE ME?

GEEZ, YOU KNOW IT'S BAD WHEN I'M THE ONLY BLONDE HERE AND NOBODY FIGURES OUT THE PLOT TWIST.

THAT GERMAN SEX TAPE-REJECT PROFESSOR PYG PAID ME.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'D TAKE THAT BRAT ON MY OWN. FOR WHAT THE D.A. MAKES? I'D BE LUCKY TO GET MY PARKING TICKETS FIXED, NEVER MIND A COOL MILLION.

PAID YOU FOR WHAT?

TO KEEP YOU BUSY.

SOME SHIPMENT'S LEAVING TONIGHT AND HE DIDN'T WANT IT STOPPED.

BUT HE DIDN'T PAY ME FOR GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM SO REALLY, FORGET THAT GUY.

WHAT SHIP IS THE CONTAINER LEAVING ON?

WHOA, YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS. GET YOU A CAPE AND A DARK SECRET FROM YOUR PAST THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY TORMENTS YOU AND DRIVES YOU TO SEEK JUSTICE, AND YOU'VE GOT THE GOTHAM THING ON LOCK, GIRLFRIEND.

AHHH!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF. WHERE ARE THE KIDS?

THEY'RE ON A SWEDISH FREIGHTER. LEAVING OUT OF SLIP 42. THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL OF THEM. NO SENSE OF HUMOR...

NOT TRUE. THAT OUTFIT OF YOURS IS HILARIOUS.

I'VE CALLED IN SOME BACKUP TO TAKE THIS ONE TO ARKHAM-- LET'S GO!

WE HAVE TO GO. KIDS LIKE THEM'LL GO INTO THE SYSTEM.

AND I HAVE A FEELING THEY JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO THEIR MOMS.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE CREEPS?

SOMEHOW, I THINK THEIR NIGHT IS ABOUT TO GET EVEN WORSE.

WREE-O-WREE-O-WREE-O

THIS IS THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE! SHUT DOWN YOUR ENGINES AND PREPARE FOR BOARDING!

YOU KNOW, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

I OWE YOU MY THANKS.

YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING.

NO MATTER WHAT ELSE HAS GONE ON BETWEEN US, THIS IS WHAT I DO.

GOING TO STAND THERE FOREVER?

EXCITING NIGHT?

YOU GOING HOME?

NOT THE WORST I'VE EVER HAD.

NOT UNTIL THE MORNING.

THE SCARECROW'S HIJACKED A SHIPMENT OF VOLATILE CHEMICALS ACROSS TOWN.

CARE TO JOIN?

I'M GETTING THE REAL LOCAL'S TOUR OF GOTHAM, HUH? GOOD TIMES.

IF NOXIOUS GASSES AND NARCISSISTIC MADMEN ARE YOUR IDEA OF A GOOD TIME.

JUST THE NOTE I WANTED TO END THE NIGHT ON.

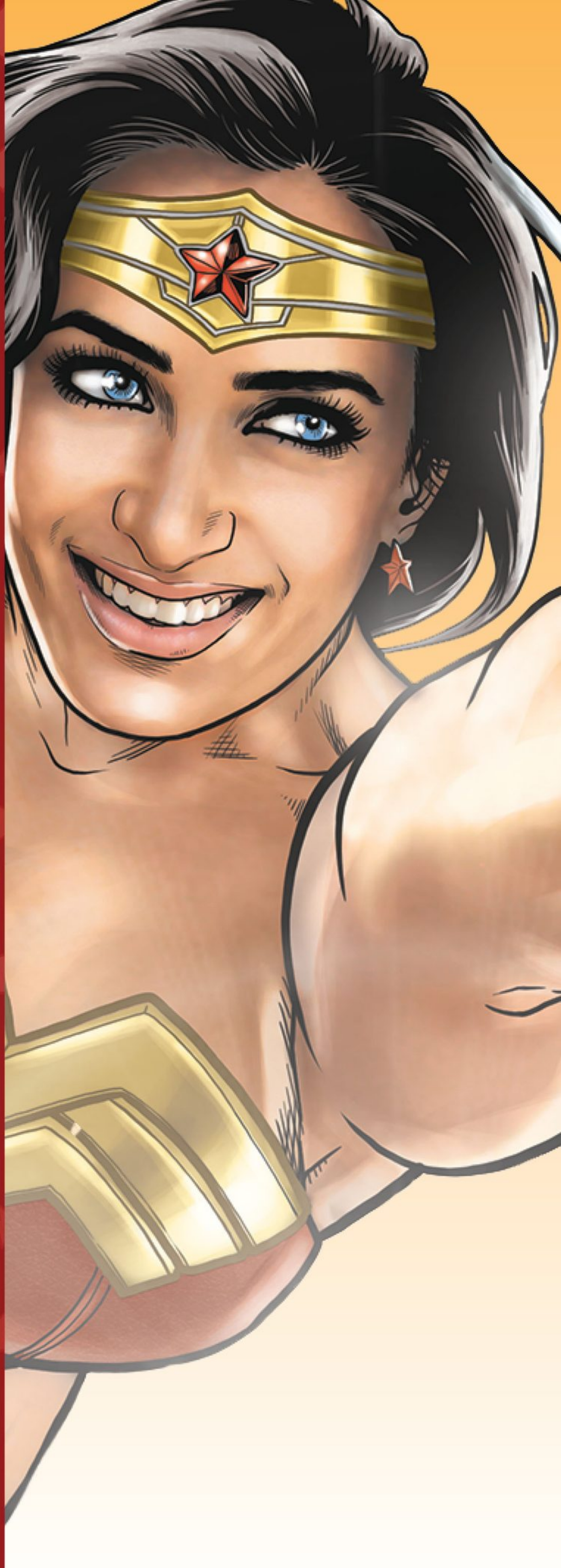
I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON I LIKED YOU.

END

A DAY IN OUR LIVES

JASON BADOWER
WRITER & ARTIST

SAIDA TEMOFONTE
LETTERER



THEY'RE JUST *BUILDINGS*, DIANA. YOU SAVED A LOT OF LIVES TODAY.

WE SAVED A LOT OF LIVES.

FIRST, THE ALIEN CHAMPION DISAPPEARED. THEN IT STARTED RAINING SPACESHIPS.

FILL ME IN.

THE INVADERS WERE SOLID-LIGHT CONSTRUCTS PROJECTED FROM A PARALLEL REALITY.

I CONTAINED THE ARMADA SO THE OTHERS COULD BUILD A QUANTUM SIGNAL DISRUPTER.

I'M SURE *BRUCE* WILL LET US KNOW WHY THE SHIPS DIDN'T DISAPPEAR.

SPEAKING OF, NICE WORK DIVERTING THE MOTHERSHIP INTO THE HARBOR.

THANK YOU. BUT I FEEL LIKE WE'RE *ALWAYS* DUMPING OUR PROBLEMS IN ARTHUR'S BACK-YARD.

FEELS THAT WAY. BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HE DOESN'T LECTURE ABOUT IT.

OH.

HAL JUST SAID THE OTHERS'LL HANDLE THE CLEANUP.

GREAT.

I SHOULD GET TO WORK.

WORK?

LEADING THE JLA AGAINST QUANTUM INVASIONS ISN'T ENOUGH? WHAT *ELSE* DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

COME ALONG AND SEE.

THAT'S THE SIBERIAN TUNDRA... BUT WHAT COUNTRY ARE WE OVER?

NO ONE KNOWS. THAT'S THE PROBLEM UNTIL THE ELECTIONS NEXT WEEK.

AS A UNITED NATIONS EXECUTIVE AMBASSADOR, THIS IS ONE OF THE ***FOURTEEN*** GLOBAL CONFLICT ZONES I MONITOR.

EXECUTIVE AMBASSADOR? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I'M THE U.N.'S FIRST RESPONDER. IT'S LARGELY MONITORING, BUT SOMETIMES I HAVE TO DEAL WITH ***TROUBLE.***

LIKE ***THAT.***

GREETINGS. I AM ***DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA.***

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS, PLEASE ***IDENTIFY*** YOURSELF.

YOU ARE VIOLATING FOREIGN SOIL.

AMERICANS ARE NOT WELCOME HERE.

SUPERMAN?

NO PROBLEM.

BUT WE KNOW ***WHO*** THEY--

PLEASE.

KAL, LET ME HANDLE THIS.

YOU'RE ALSO WEARING THE AMERICAN FLAG.

LEAVE ***NOW*** OR BE FORCIBLY EXPELLED.

A COMMON MISCONCEPTION.

MALAYSIA, LIBERIA, CUBA, PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES ALL HAVE FLAGS ***SIMILAR*** TO MY COUNTRY, THEMYSCIRA.

AS U.N. EXECUTIVE AMBASSADOR I HAVE ***OFFICIAL*** PRESENCE HERE.

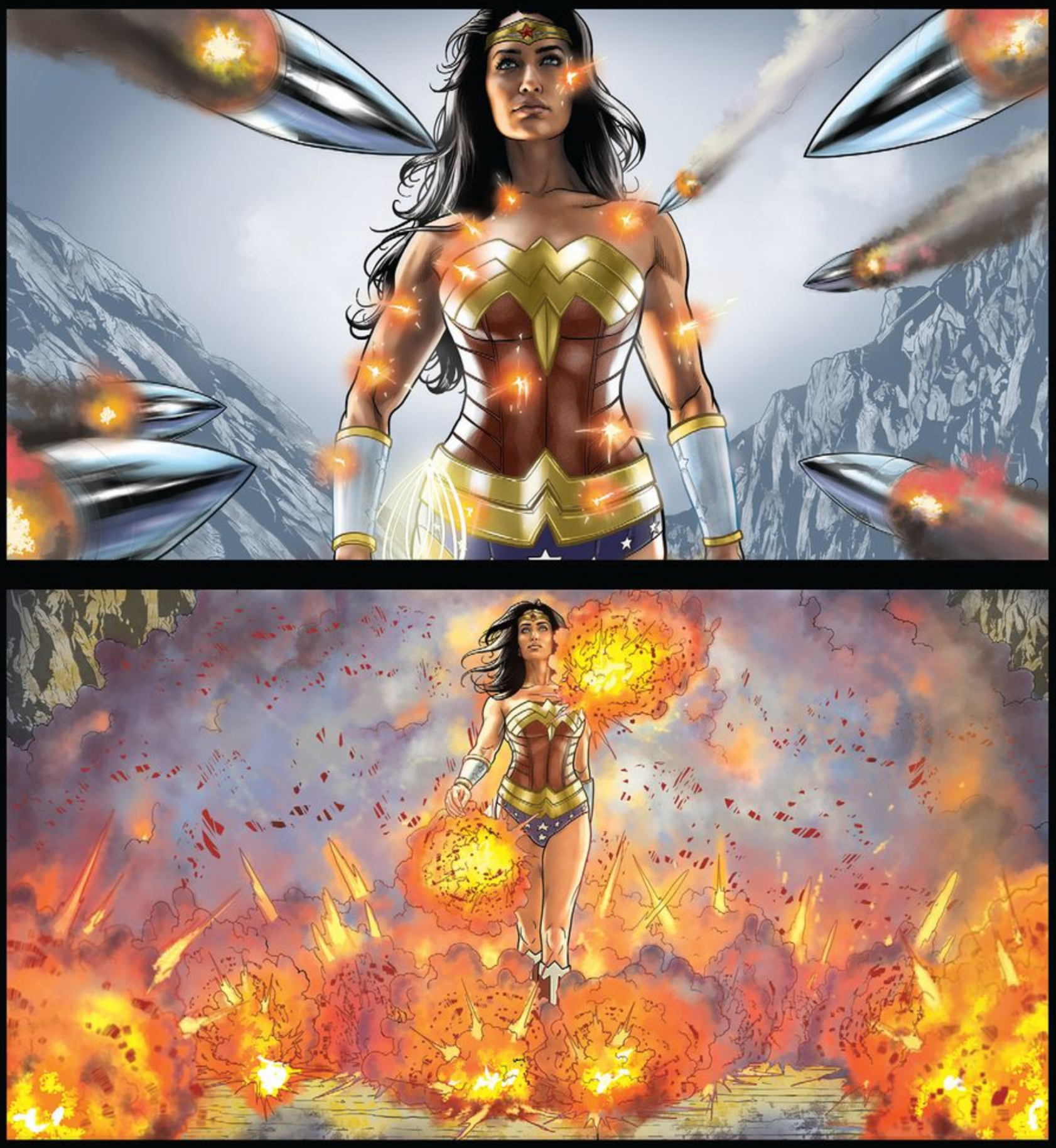
YOU'RE SPEAKING ENGLISH AND DRIVING UNMARKED VEHICLES. BUT I ***KNOW*** YOUR ACCENT AND WHICH COUNTRY DEPLOYS THESE MUNITIONS.

GET ***OUT*** OF OUR WAY.

I ***ALSO*** KNOW WHO YOU ARE... GENERAL. DON'T BE FLATTERED, I'VE MEMORIZED THE DOSSIER OF ***EVERY*** RANKING OFFICER IN THIS REGION.

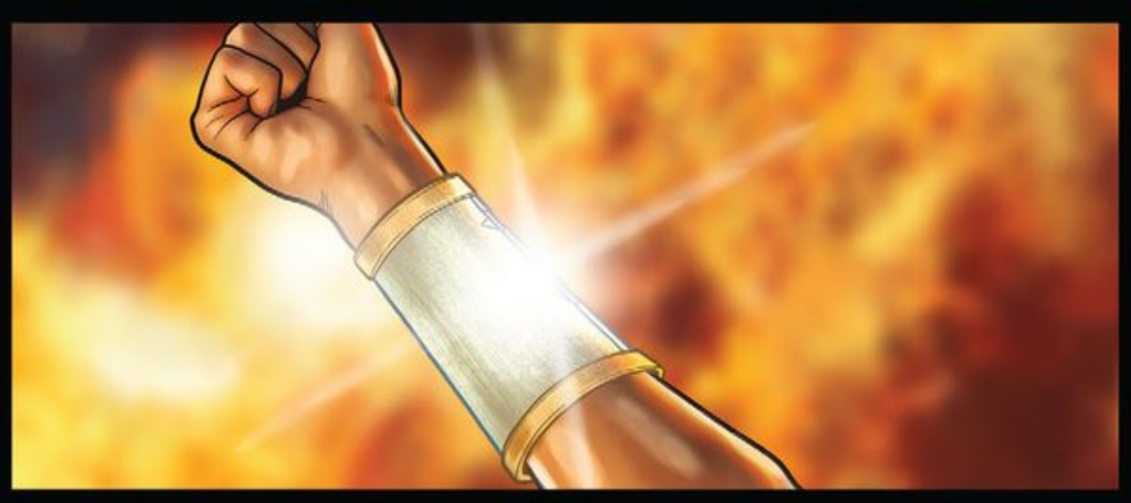
SHOW ME DOCUMENTATION PROVING YOU'RE ***NOT*** HERE TO ANNEX THIS COUNTRY.

TAKE HER OUT.



MACHINE GUNS!
FIRE!
ROCKETS! TANKS!
FIRE!
FIRE!!

ENOUGH.



YARGH!

WE'RE NO DIFFERENT, YOU AND I...

...WE *BOTH* CONTROL OTHERS WITH POWER.

THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU BELIEVE "*MIGHT MAKES RIGHT.*" I BELIEVE THAT "*RIGHT GUIDES MIGHT.*"

BE THANKFUL I DON'T FOLLOW YOUR DOCTRINE-- BECAUSE THE WORLD WOULD BE A *VERY* DIFFERENT PLACE.

I'LL GIVE YOU TWO OPTIONS.

ONE. TURN AROUND AND I WON'T REPORT THIS... *TRANSGRESSION.*

TWO. STAY, AND I WILL *OFFICIALLY* DECLARE YOUR COUNTRY'S INCURSION.

HOW? MY SOLDIERS WOULD *DIE* BEFORE IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES.

THIS IS THE LASSO OF TRUTH.

IT IS RECOGNIZED IN INTERNATIONAL COURT.

AND IT WILL *MAKE* YOU SPEAK THE *ABSOLUTE TRUTH* FROM THE DEPTHS OF YOUR HEART.

AND SO, BOUND BY THE LASSO OF TRUTH, DO YOU, ELIZABETH, TAKE KATIE TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED WIFE, TO LOVE AND SUPPORT THROUGH SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH TILL DEATH DO YOU PART?

I DO.

THEN BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK, I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU ***MARRIED.***

YOU OFFICIATE WEDDINGS? IS NO DETAIL TOO SMALL FOR WONDER WOMAN?

I'M LICENSED IN EVERY STATE AND COUNTRY THAT WOULD ***ALLOW*** ME. I DON'T DO IT OFTEN, THOUGH.

I MET ELIZABETH WHEN SHE WAS VOLUNTEERING AFTER KATRINA. WE THEN WORKED TOGETHER IN HAITI, TOHOKU AND NEPAL. OFFICIATING HER WEDDING IS THE ***LEAST*** I COULD DO.

I...DIDN'T KNOW YOU'RE A PROPONENT OF GAY MARRIAGE?

CLARK, MY COUNTRY IS ALL WOMEN.

TO US, IT'S ***NOT*** "GAY" MARRIAGE. IT'S JUST MARRIAGE.

BESIDES, A WEDDING IS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AFTER AVERTING A WAR.

I'LL SECOND THAT.

I'M STILL AMAZED HOW YOU SUBDUED THAT ARMY WITHOUT A ***SINGLE*** PUNCH.

VIOLENCE IS THE ***LOWEST*** FORM OF COMMUNICATION. I LET HIM HAVE HIS SAY...

...THEN I HAD MINE.

I'M NOT DONE YET. I HAVE SOME DEMOLITION WORK TO DO IN SOUTH AMERICA.

THIS I ***HAVE*** TO SEE.

THIS DAM WAS BUILT BY THE PREVIOUS REGIME TO BLOCK WATER TO THE RESISTANCE VILLAGES.

NOW PEOPLE AND CROPS ARE DYING WHILE INTERNATIONAL AID SLOWLY RALLIES THE DEMOLITION FINANCES.

IS ANYONE NEARBY?

NO. JUST A FAMILY OF SLOTHS AND A CURIOUS ANTEATER.

I'LL CLEAR THEM FOR YOU.

I'LL NEVER GET TIRED OF THIS VIEW.

WONDER WOMAN?

DIANA?

BY THE GODS!

I LOVE CUTTING LOOSE!

UNFORTUNATELY, NO SHAMPOO MADE BY MAN CAN GET PREHISTORIC BEDROCK OUT OF YOUR HAIR.

I'M GUESSING THERE'S NOT MUCH DEMAND FOR THAT.

HOW ABOUT LETTING MOTHER NATURE TRY?

RACE YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE?

YOU'RE ON!

THAT WAS... THE BEST *FUN* I HAVE HAD IN WELL--I CAN'T REMEMBER.

YEAH... ME, TOO. I--

--I DIDN'T GET TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN AS A KID.

I WAS AN ONLY CHILD AND COULDN'T PLAY WITH THE OTHER KIDS BECAUSE OF MY... *SITUATION.*

IN THE SUMMER, I'D SIT IN MY BARN AND WATCH ALL THE *ROSS* KIDS RUN THROUGH THE SPRINKLERS TOGETHER.

I FELT SO *BAD* FOR FEELING LONELY. MY MA AND PA JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE MEANS TO RAISE ANOTHER.

THAT BACK *THERE.* THAT WAS THE CLOSEST--

CLARK, IN THE AMAZONIAN DIALECT THERE'S NO WORD FOR "BROTHER."

FROM TODAY ON IT WILL BE...

..."KAL-EL."

I GUESS... I'VE GOT A WHOLE COUNTRY OF SISTERS NOW.

COME.

WE SHOULD GET YOU HOME.

DAILY PLANET

YOU'VE BEEN QUIET ON THE FLIGHT HOME.

SOMETHING ON YOUR *MIND*, CLARK?

I JUST FEEL... I SHOULD BE DOING *MORE* AS SUPERMAN.

YOU'RE OUT THERE EVERY DAY, DOING SO MUCH. ALL THE CONFLICT ZONES, CHARITY...

...HOW CAN I *JUSTIFY* BEING CLARK KENT IN THE FACE OF *THAT?*

WE WERE BLESSED WITH *MANY* GIFTS, CLARK.

WE CAN *BOTH* LEAP TALL BUILDINGS AND RACE LOCOMOTIVES, BUT YOU WERE GIVEN *ONE* GIFT THAT I DON'T HAVE.

UH... HEAT VISION?

NO. YOU CAN *WRITE.*

WE BOTH NEED *SOMEONE* TO TELL THE WORLD WHAT WE'RE DOING.

SUPERMAN HAS LOIS LANE. I NEED *CLARK KENT* TO TELL PEOPLE THEY DON'T NEED A MAGIC LASSO OR SILVER BRACELETS TO MAKE A *DIFFERENCE.*

ANYONE CAN BE A HERO BY OFFERING FOUR SIMPLE WORDS: *"HOW CAN I HELP?"*

USE YOUR GIFT, CLARK.

HEROES COME AND GO, BUT STORIES LAST *FOREVER.*

THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR *CLARK KENT.*

THANKS FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY TODAY.

I SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK.

BEFORE YOU GO. A GREAT STORY NEEDS A GREAT *PICTURE.* CAN I GET JIMMY?

SURE. WHAT DO I DO?

JUST... BE YOURSELF.

DAILY PLANET

A Great Metropolitan Newspaper ★★★ Morning sun, low 50s ★★★ Wednesday, Augu

A DAY IN OUR LIVES

By Clark Kent. Picture by James Olsen.

Story and Art by Jason Badower
Letters by Saida Temofonte
Associate Editor Jessica Chen
Editor Kristy Quinn

Wonder Woman created by William Moulton Marston. Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.

Wonder Woman gazes out over the ragged skyline. An immense mothership of alien technology emerges out of the bay at a distressed angle. Surrounding the giant ship in the water are the wrecks of similar but smaller destroyer-class alien ships. Superman
troubled features. "

ISLAND OF LOST SOULS

TRINA ROBBINS
WRITER

CHRIS GUGLIOTTI
ARTIST

SAIDA TEMOFONTE
LETTERER

MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF ANCIENT GREECE

12:0

CHEETAH!

NO!!

NO!!

WH...? LET GO!

NOOOOOO-

BARBARA MINERVA?!

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.

I CAME TO ASK FOR HELP.

MY HELP?

YOU BREAK INTO MY HOME AND ATTACK ME, AND YOU WANT MY *HELP?*

THANK YOU.

I DIDN'T ATTACK YOU. AND I *HAD* TO BREAK IN. IF THE CHEETAH HAD RUNG YOUR BELL, WOULD YOU HAVE LET HER IN?

I'M DYING.

BARBARA...

I'VE TOLD YOU HOW I DISCOVERED THE LOST URZKATARGA TRIBE IN AFRICA DURING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION...

I HAD HEARD LEGENDS OF A MYSTERIOUS TRIBE OF PEOPLE THAT HAD THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO CHEETAHS...

"...USING AN ANCIENT MAP, WE FOUND THE VILLAGE AND WERE RECEIVED WITH FRIENDSHIP BY THE URZKATARGANS...

"...BUT WITHIN DAYS, OUR NEW FRIENDS WERE ATTACKED AND WIPED OUT BY A NEIGHBORING TRIBE.

"THEIR HIGH PRIESTESS WAS KILLED. ONLY CHUMA--THE TRIBAL WITCH DOCTOR--AND I SURVIVED.

"IN GRATITUDE, CHUMA REVEALED TO ME THE SECRET TRANSFORMATIVE ABILITIES OF THE URZKATARGA PLANT.

"AN UNFORTUNATE RESULT OF MY TRANSFORMATION WAS THAT AS BARBARA MINERVA, I BECAME AN INVALID.

"ONLY WHEN A SERUM MADE FROM THE BERRIES OF THE URZKATARGA VINE TURNS ME INTO THE CHEETAH DO I GAIN THE ROBUST STRENGTH AND HEALTH OF THE BIG CATS.

BUT MY BODY HAS GROWN DEPENDENT ON THE SERUM. IF I CAN'T HAVE IT, I'LL GROW WEAKER UNTIL I DIE.

MAY I SHOW YOU? I LEFT MY LAPTOP OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR.

DON'T TRY TO STAND. I'LL GET IT.

URZKATARGA IS A PARASITIC VINE THAT GROWS IN RAIN-FORESTS, AND ONLY ON A VERY RARE HARDWOOD TREE CALLED KA'A.

LEXCORP LUMBER

"BUT THE PLANET'S RAIN-FORESTS ARE DISAPPEARING AT AN ALARMING SPEED; OVER 100,000 ACRES A DAY. ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN THE RAINFORESTS, LIKE THE SUMATRAN TIGER OR THE ORANGUTAN, FACE EXTINCTION.

"WORSE FOR ME, THE KA'A, IN DEMAND FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL WOOD, IS ALMOST GONE, AND WITH IT, THE URZKATARGA BERRIES.

I HAD A HOUSE BUILT NEXT TO ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVING KA'A GROVES, ON BORNEO. I RETURNED FROM THE MAINLAND TO FIND IT HAD BEEN CLEARCUT. MY ONLY SOURCE WAS GONE!

I MADE A SERUM FROM THE DYING BERRIES THAT WERE LEFT ON THE GROUND, BUT THE STRENGTH IS MUCH DILUTED, AND MY TRANSFORMATION INTO THE CHEETAH DOESN'T LAST. AND EACH TIME I TURN BACK INTO BARBARA MINERVA, I'M WEAKER, IN MORE PAIN.

MY RESEARCH HAS FOUND ONE LAST GROVE OF KA'A--MAYBE THE LAST ON THE PLANET--GROWING ON A SMALL ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF BORNEO.

I'M IN NO CONDITION TO GO THERE ALONE. I'M BEGGING YOU TO FLY ME TO THE ISLAND, HELP ME HARVEST THE URZKATARGA.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WOULD AGREE TO THAT, BARBARA?

YOUR COMPASSION IS WELL KNOWN, WONDER WOMAN.

"PLEASE, CALL ME DIANA."

ARE WE REALLY INVISIBLE?

THE PLANE IS MADE FROM A SPECIAL METAL THAT BENDS BACK LIGHT RAYS. IT CAN BE HEARD, BUT NOT SEEN.

ANYWAY, THE ISLAND APPEARS TO BE UNINHAB--*AAH!!*

FAWAK

W-WHAT...?

WE'VE BEEN HIT. SOMEONE SHOT AT US.

B-BUT WE'RE INVISIBLE!

WHOEVER IT WAS, AIMED AT THE *SOUND.*

GOT TO LAND, BUT THERE'S NO CLEAR SPACE. HOLD TIGHT, I'LL HAVE TO LAND IN THE TREES.

I'LL TRY TO MAKE THIS AS GENTLE AS POSSIBLE.

KWAM

KRUNCH

EASY NOW.
I'VE MADE BETTER LANDINGS.
=MOAN=
IT'S ALL KA'A TREES, BARBARA?
THE... THE PAIN... AWFUL...
STAY WITH ME, BARBARA. THE BERRIES...
WH--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'LL HAVE TO EAT THE BERRIES.
BUT I HAVE TO DRINK A *SERUM.*
NO TIME TO BREW A SERUM.
CHEW THE BERRIES, BARBARA.

AAAHHAHAAA! THAT'S BETTER! I FEEL GLORIOUS!!!

BUT... MY MIND IS CLEAR. AND I DON'T WANT TO *KILL* YOU. WHY?

YOUR SERUM WAS A BREW OF THE BERRIES AND HUMAN BLOOD.

PERHAPS THE UNADULTERATED BERRIES IN THEIR RAW FORM...

MYRR?!

WHAT...?!

HELLO. ARE YOU NEW?
DID DOC MAKE YOU, TOO? DID IT HURT?
SOFT FUR. JUST LIKE MOLLY.
WHO IS DOC? DID HE DO THIS TO YOU?
DOC IS OUR CREATOR. SOME DAY DOC WILL MAKE US HUMAN. HE PROMISED.
BUT SOMETIMES IT HURTS.
AND IF WE'RE NOT GOOD, DOC WILL SEND BONZO.
WHO IS BONZO? DOES BONZO HURT YOU?
MOLLY LIKES YOU. YOU LOOK LIKE MOLLY'S FRIEND. WILL YOU BE MOLLY'S FRIEND, TOO?
OF COURSE.
HMMM... A REVERSE TRANSFORMATION. THAT'S NEW.

FTTT
MOLLY SMELLS BONZO! HE'S COMING!
WHO IS BONZO?
WE MUST HAVE BEEN BAD! WHEN WE'RE BAD, DOC SENDS BONZO.
DON'T LET BONZO HURT MOLLY.
RRRROWF! ROWF! ROWF!
GREAT GAIA!
FFFTTT
MY MATE! DON'T KILL MY MATE! I'LL BE GOOD!
RRRRR!
BONZO COULD EAT THIS DEER IN TWO BITES
YOU, WOMAN, AND THAT OTHER ONE, COME WITH ME, OR BONZO WILL RIP OUT ITS DELICIOUS LIVER.
DOC WANTS TO SEE YOU.
I CAN TAKE HIM OUT.
NO. HE'LL KILL THE DEER. WE'LL DO WHAT HE SAYS.

NO WONDER I COULDN'T SEE IT FROM THE SKY.

YOU STAY. JUST THESE TWO.

WONDER WOMAN AND THE CHEETAH.

MY NAME IS GEORGE HERBERT. *DOCTOR* GEORGE HERBERT. I'VE READ ABOUT YOU BOTH, SEEN PHOTOS. THIS IS AN HONOR.

WHY DID YOU SHOOT DOWN MY PLANE?

ERM, YES, WELL. DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU, DID I? YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED AHEAD.

GOOD DOG, BONZO. HEEL.

CAN BONZO EAT THE DEER NOW, BOSS?

NO!!

DROP THE DEER, BONZO. DROP IT. NOW!

THIS IS *FERRET*, WHO KNOWS COMPUTERS BETTER THAN I. YOU WILL SEE, MY ANIMALS CAN DO AMAZING THINGS.

LET ME TAKE YOU ON A TOUR OF THE CLINIC. PLEASE, AFTER YOU.

HERE AT HERBERT CLINIC, WE WORK FOR A GREAT CAUSE: MAKING ANIMALS...

...HUMAN!

WH--? BARBARA!

AH AH AH! I WOULDN'T. BONZO IS HUNGRY.

CAN BONZO EAT HER, BOSS?

IF YOU HURT HER...

NO NO! I CAN *HELP* HER! IF YOU'LL JUST HEAR ME OUT...?

NO. PUT HER ON THE BED IN ROOM 7. DON'T WORRY, WONDER WOMAN, THIS IS FOR HER OWN GOOD.

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU TOOK A SEAT.

I'LL STAND.

FOR YEARS I'VE STUDIED THE URZKATARGA BERRY.

THE BERRY'S KNOWN TO ALTER THE GENETIC BLUEPRINT OF THE TEST SUBJECT...

...BUT UNTIL RECENTLY, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKED. MY BIG PROBLEM WAS LACK OF FUNDING FOR EXPERIMENTS.

I FINALLY SECURED FUNDING FROM LEXCORP PREMIUM HARDWOODS.

MR. LUTHOR BOUGHT THIS ISLAND FOR MY USE, AND SUPPLIED THE ANIMAL TEST SUBJECTS.

"WHEN I ISOLATED THE ELEMENTS THAT CAUSED THE ANIMAL-HUMAN TRANSFORMATION...

"...I INJECTED THE TRIAL SERUM INTO MY HOUSE CAT AND MY DOG--WITH SUCCESSFUL RESULTS.

"MY CAT, WHO WAS NEVER FOND OF ME, RAN AWAY TO LIVE IN THE JUNGLE, BUT MY FAITHFUL DOG STAYED WITH ME AND HAS BECOME MY IRREPLACEABLE LIEUTENANT.

"UNFORTUNATELY THE SERUM WASN'T PERFECT, AND THE EFFECTS SOON WORE OFF. WORSE, THE ANIMALS' SYSTEMS BECAME DEPENDENT UPON IT--THEY NEEDED MORE AND MORE SERUM TO MAINTAIN THEIR FORMS.

"MY ATTEMPT AT BRAIN SURGERY WAS A DISASTER. I ALSO ATTEMPTED SOME LIMB GRAFTS, SO FAR WITH NO SUCCESS.

"BUT MR. LUTHOR HAS GROWN IMPATIENT. HE'S GIVEN ME JUST TWO MORE WEEKS TO PERFECT THE SERUM--AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK!

"HE HAS A CLIENT IN JAPAN WHO IS EAGER TO PAY AN ASTRONOMICAL FEE FOR ALL THE KA'A HARDWOOD ON THE ISLAND. MR. LUTHOR IS VERY SHORTSIGHTED, AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE URZKATARGA BERRIES.

DON'T YOU SEE?

DISEASES LIKE AIDS ARE FATAL TO HUMANS, BUT DON'T HARM ANIMALS. IF WE CAN TRANSFORM THE ANIMALS PERMANENTLY, WE CAN HARVEST THEIR ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANTS AND CURE DYING PEOPLE--THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT.

MR. LUTHOR DIDN'T EVEN CARE THAT I OWN THE PATENT. I WILL BE A VERY RICH MAN.

YOU ARE DISGUSTING. THESE ANIMALS THINK OF YOU AS A GOD WHO WILL MAKE THEM HUMAN. THEY TRUST YOU AND YOU ARE GROWING THEM TO *HARVEST* THEM.

TAKE ME TO BARBARA. *NOW!*

PLEASE BE PREPARED. THIS MAY *UPSET* YOU.

BARBARA! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?!

WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

THE URZKATARGA HAS WORN OFF, AND SHE IS DYING, AS SHE WAS BEFORE. WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN TO KEEP HER ALIVE. YOU CAN HELP.

TIME IS RUNNING SHORT. IF I CAN *DISSECT* THE BRAINS OF SOME OF MY SUBJECTS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SOME SOLUTIONS. BUT I NEED AN ASSISTANT. BONZO IS TOO CLUMSY TO BE ANY GOOD. WITH YOU AS MY ASSISTANT, I THINK WE CAN SAVE YOUR FRIEND.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. I'M TAKING DR. MINERVA. WE'LL FIND A WAY OFF THIS ISLAND.

BOSS, BOSS! A HELICOPTER COMING!

EH? IMPOSSIBLE! HE PROMISED ME TWO MORE WEEKS!

WHUP WHUP WHUP

I'M SO CLOSE... HE CAN'T...

FERRET, DON'T LET THEM GET MY FILES. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

PLEASE HELP US.

BONZO, DON'T LET THEM IN. WE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT; THIS IS ***MINE.***

YES, BOSS.

YOU HERBERT?

I AM *DOCTOR* GEORGE HERBERT.

WHATEVER. MR. LUTHOR SENT US. WE'RE TAKING OVER THE PROJECT.

THE HELICOPTER WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE MAINLAND. YOU'RE FREE TO GO. YOU CAN PACK YOUR CLOTHING, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE BELONGS TO MR. LUTHOR.

RRRR!

NO!!

THIS IS ALL MINE! ALL MY YEARS OF RESEARCH...

HE'S GIVING US TROUBLE, MR. LUTHOR.

DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING? KILL HIM.

RROWF! ROWF! ROWF!

JESUS.

AAH!

BAKOW

STUPID DOG.

BDAM BDAM

BDAM BDAM

BOSS...

BDAM

JEEZ. I HATE TO KILL DOGS.

OKAY, WEASEL. OUT.

INITIATE SELF-DESTRUCT 00.05

I'M NOT A WEASEL. I'M A FERRET.

00.04

WHAT THE HELL...?

00.03

PING

BDAM

BDAM

BDAM

00.02

00.01

KHOOOM

BARBARA? STAY WITH ME. I'M GOING TO GET US TO THAT HELICOPTER.

=NN...NN=

MOLLY IS HAPPY TO SEE YOU. DOC IS DEAD, ISN'T HE? THE BAD MEN KILLED HIM.

MOLLY!

BUT YOUR FRIEND IS VERY SICK. MOLLY'S FRIEND CAN HELP HER. COME WITH MOLLY.

YOUR FRIEND?

ROWRR

RRRRR

GRAHRRR

RRRR

CHEE CHEE CHEE

RRR

THOSE SOUNDS...

SOME OF THEM HAVE STOPPED BEING HUMAN. THEY'RE FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER.

WE NEED DOC TO GIVE US A SHOT, SO WE CAN STAY HUMAN. BUT DOC IS DEAD. SOON MOLLY WON'T BE HUMAN EITHER.

COME HERE.

TOO THICK... THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

RRRR

RRRRR

GRAHRRR

CHEE CHEE

ROWRR

JEEZ, ARE YOU *SURE* WE'RE NOT LOST, DOM?

WE'RE NOT LOST. WE'D BE ABLE TO SEE THE COPTER IF NOT FOR THESE FREAKIN' TREES.

CHEE CHEE RRR

ROWR

THOSE DAMN ANIMALS ARE GETTING ON MY NERVES. SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE ALL AROUND US BUT I CAN'T SEE A THING.

NYAAGH!

MR. LUTHOR'S NOT GONNA BE HAPPY WHEN HE HEARS ABOUT THE LOSS OF THE LAB, DOM.

DOM?

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

KRRRUNNCH

NOOO!

THERE.

GAIA! HOW ANCIENT IS THAT? HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS?

THIS IS WHERE MOLLY'S FRIEND LIVES.

COME SEE MOLLY'S FRIEND!

COME SEE! COME SEE!

GREAT GAIA!

COULD THIS BE THE ORIGIN, THE CENTER OF THE URZKATARGA CULT? DID IT SPREAD FROM HERE?

THE URZKATARGA GODDESS!

FFTTT!

WH...?

CHEETAH!!

NO! BARBARA, THIS IS NOT YOU. SOMEHOW, YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED BY THE URZKATARGA GODDESS.

SNARRRLL

THUNK

RAHRRR!

BARBARA, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...

...BUT I HAVE TO DEFEND MYSELF.

BARBARA, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. LISTEN TO ME. THE URZKATARGA STATUE IS CONTROLLING YOU. YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IT!

FFFT!

SO STRONG! STRONGER THAN I HAVE EVER KNOWN HER TO BE... THE STATUE IS GIVING HER STRENGTH.

NO! MOLLY DOESN'T LIKE THIS!

UNNH!

ARRGH!

GAIA, GIVE ME STRENGTH TO MATCH HERS.

=NNNH=

STOP! MOLLY DOESN'T WANT YOU TO FIGHT!

MOLLY SAID---

MROWWW

MOLLY!

MOLLY...

...I'VE KILLED HER.

RRUMMBL

THE UNTHINKABLE

UNTHINKABLE

SHE'S STILL VERY WEAK. YOU CAN SEE HER NOW, BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES.

YOU BROUGHT HER!

SHE RECOVERED NICELY, BUT SHE'S BEEN RESTLESS. I THINK SHE WANTS TO SEE YOU.

OH! SHE FORGIVES ME!

AND YOU? THE DOCTOR TELLS ME YOU'RE RECOVERING.

I'M GROWING STRONGER, AND I HAVEN'T NEEDED THE SERUM. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT I'M GRATEFUL.

I HAVE A THEORY...

PRR

...I THINK THAT ISLAND WAS THE TRUE ANCIENT CENTER OF THE URZKATARGA CULT, WHICH SPREAD TO PLACES LIKE THE AFRICAN VILLAGE OF THE URZKATARGANS. AND SOMEHOW, THE STATUE OF THE GODDESS WAS THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER AS THE CHEETAH.

BUT WHEN YOU USED YOUR OWN WILLPOWER TO SHOW COMPASSION FOR MOLLY, WHOM YOU BELIEVED YOU HAD KILLED, YOU BROKE THE STATUE'S POWER OVER YOU, AND IN FACT, YOU DESTROYED THE STATUE.

SORRY, TIME'S UP. DR. MINERVA NEEDS TO REST.

DR. BARBARA MINERVA WILL LIVE. THE CHEETAH IS DEAD.

THANK YOU...

...DIANA... MY... FRIEND.

THE END

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